

Hafa Adai!

Gold Mantis seeks extension to comply with court orders. **PAGE 5**

DPS: 'Missing' person report was miscommunication. **PAGE 7**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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ROAD MAINTENANCE

TINIAN—Equipment Operator 3rd Class James Pace, from Frankton, Ind., deployed with the Seabee expeditionary construction and engineering capability of Task Force 75, operates a skid steer to level off and fill-in potholes for road maintenance on Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

4 Guam deaths, 1 new NMI case

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 15, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	5,755	169	5,924
Recovered	3,942	275	3,942
Active	1,721	169	1,890
Deaths	94	4	98
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	76,502		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	102	1	103
Traced via Travel Screening	76	1	77
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		
Days since last community transmission	92		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

The CNMI added one more person yesterday to its tally of positive COVID-19 cases, while the neighboring island of Guam recorded four new COVID-19-related deaths.

In the CNMI, the newest positive case is an incoming traveler. This brings the CNMI's total to 103 cases since March 28, 2020, when the CNMI posted its first case.

The latest case was identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing upon arrival last Saturday.

See GUAM on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CEC may certify election results tonight

» **CEC picked up some absentee ballots last week, remaining will be picked up today**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is expected to certify tonight, Tuesday, the results of the Nov. 3 general elections that saw a neck-and-neck battle between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez
See CEC on **Page 4**



Villagomez

Americans across party lines, regions embrace marijuana

Montana Advanced Caregivers owner Richard Abromeit talks about different strains of marijuana stored in a refrigerator at the Billings, Mont., medical marijuana dispensary on Nov. 11, 2020.

By **AMY BETH HANSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Bill Stocker could be considered the archetype of a conservative voter: He's a retired Marine and former police officer who voted for President Donald Trump. But he's also among the majority of

See MARIJUANA on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Cafe de Hei has re-opened. To celebrate, buy two and get one black sugar bubble tea drink.

PAGE 11



ASIA

A typhoon killed at least 42 people in the Philippines and caused extensive flooding.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

As the pandemic mutes Dubai's live-music scene, Filipino performers are struggling to survive.

PAGE 15



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Bill wants to remove pot from pre-employment, random tests

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REPORTER

Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has pre-filed a bill that would—with certain exceptions—remove marijuana from all pre-employment and random testing required by government employers and the Office of Personnel Management.

Hofschneider stated that the enactment of Public Law 20-66—the “Taulamwaar Sen-

sible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018”—authorized the personal, medicinal, and commercial use of cannabis or marijuana in the CNMI. Yet that same law did not change or amend the drug testing policies of the CNMI government, he added.

Currently, government hiring policies still includes testing for marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols in a person's employment, he said. His pre-filed bill seeks to insert a new

section for drug testing for marijuana. The bill states that “except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols shall be excluded from all pre-employment testing for prospective employees or applicants and random testing for current employees by all government employers and the Office of Personnel Management.”

As for the exceptions, the bill states that it shall not apply to pre-employment

and random drug testing for those applying to become enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, employees in safety sensitive positions, and federally funded employees.

Hofschneider said P.L. 20-66 also did not address whether government employers may prohibit employees or applicants from engaging in off-duty legalized marijuana use.

Hofschneider said the public law intended to regulate

the use of marijuana similarly to the use of alcohol. “This should include the use of alcohol and marijuana at the workplace,” he said.

The senator said government employers do not prohibit employees or applicants from engaging in off-duty legalized alcohol use. “Such employers should do the same for marijuana use,” he said.

Hofschneider said all CNMI employers have adopted an alcohol- and drug-free workplace policy that prohibits the use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs as well as prohibits employees from being under the influence of alcohol and drugs in the workplace.

These policies, he said,

provide for alcohol and drug testing as a condition of employment.

However, the senator said, alcohol is not included in the pre-employment testing for prospective employees or applicants and random testing for current employees.

Therefore, Hofschneider said, marijuana or THC, which is no longer an illegal drug under CNMI law, should not be included in the pre-employment testing for prospective employees and random testing for current employees except for certain employees including enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, employees in safety sensitive positions, and federally funded employees.

Supreme Court denies rehearing of opinion in a convicted rapist's case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied the Commonwealth's request for a rehearing on the Supreme Court's previous opinion in the case of John Santos Aldan, who was convicted of sexual assault in the first degree.

According to a Supreme Court order, the Commonwealth failed to show that the high court misapprehended an issue of law or fact and therefore denies the request.

In its petition, the Commonwealth, represented by assistant attorney general Robert Glass Jr., asked for a rehearing of the Supreme Court's opinion in Aldan's case on the

argument that the high court misapprehended the facts of the DNA database involved in the case.

Glass also argued that the high court erred in not remanding on the issue of parole eligibility.

First, in regards to facts of the database, the court said the petition's selective quotation was materially misleading and the court did not mistake the facts.

“The Commonwealth simply mischaracterized the record. When the context was restored, the expert was in fact referring to backgrounds that were not known to be represented in the database,” the high court stated.

See SUPREME on Page 3



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COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at **9:00am, Friday, November 20, 2020**, at the **Commonwealth Casino Commission Office, Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan**. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. Commonwealth Casino Commission Update
- VII. IPI Status Update
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Community Benefit Fund
 - b. Online Gaming
- IX. Executive Session
- X. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

CUC to administer water pilot project

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is looking at initiating a pilot project to install new water meters that will obtain information on advanced metering infrastructure and meter reading, while also having the primary supplier of CUC's water meter units demonstrate the prepaid water meters.

Speaking at the CUC's board of directors' meeting yesterday, CUC executive director Gary Camacho stated that the prepaid water meter will function similar to the kilowatt-hour, electric Nighthawk power meters on all three islands. Camacho said that this is under consideration as a possible efficiency cost reduction opportunity, as well as to enhance meter reading accuracy and reduce non-revenue water loss.

Camacho said that, in tandem with the use of reliable software, having this advanced water meters will allow CUC to "see a lot more" and will know, technically, if somebody's manipulating the meter or bypassing the meter. This will also help CUC decide in cases where they have to disconnect someone. That means CUC will have the ability to reduce the water supply and not

completely shut off someone's water source, in the event that there's somebody ill or sick in a household. It will have enough water supply to where they will be able to use just a little water.

"There's a variety of different functions that we would be able to utilize but, at the end of the day, we would be able to understand and know our system, both on the technical and non-technical side, much more than we currently do now," said Camacho.

Under the pilot project, CUC is considering installing 20 meters on Rota, 20 on Tinian, and 40 on Saipan.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore said part of the reason why there's no drinking water on the island is that, because of the heat, the solution that makes the water drinkable becomes diluted if the water stops for any time at all. That can cause a blockage of any valves, meters of any kind.

Because of that problem, Saipan isn't able to have drinking water, he said. But with the water pilot project that they're introducing, the prepaid meters have this automatic flushing system that will make it possible to have drinking water. Additionally, Gilmore stated that, once a week, it will automatically break loose

any buildup in the pipes and it will be flushed immediately.

He said the prepaid meters will be able to maintain accuracy for a 20-year warranty period. "We're highly interested in having this, because it will

cure one of the elements that stand out as a concern for us. It is also guaranteed that the same meter will not read air [when there's a water outage], and so that's one of the major benefits that we can eliminate

as a concern," he said.

Camacho stated that CUC has been changing its water meters at least four or five times in the last 10 to 15 years, which has cost them a lot, that the current meters that they spent money on are failing in the same way the previous meters have.

The time and effort involved in buying the previous water meters, plus the inefficiencies such as water loss incurred over many years, add up to the costs of CUC, Camacho said.

The new meters will "speak" to CUC and they'll start to see things right away, he added.




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To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Scheduled power outage today

There will be a scheduled power service interruption today, Nov. 17, 2020, from 9am to 1pm on Beach Road, from the Kristo Rai Church south to the Joeten Superstore in San Jose. This will allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely relocate a primary power pole and to replace rusted power pole hardware on six primary power poles on Beach Road.

Because of the scale of work that will be done, CUC asks travelers to take alternative routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

The power outage will affect the traffic light at the Atkins Kroll intersection in San Jose but no water well will be affected. Three wastewater lift stations—S-10, S-11, and S-12—will be affected. (PR)

SUPREME

From Page 2

On parole eligibility, the court said the effect of vacating the court's restriction on parole eligibility was simply to restore the default operation of the parole statute.

"We upheld the rest of the sentence here, so our vacating of the parole restriction portion was severable and refraining from remand was appropriate," the court stated.

Aldan was convicted of sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace for assaulting a woman. The evidence used to secure his conviction included DNA analysis from Bode Cellmark Forensics, which uses a database of largely U.S. mainland samples. Aside from DNA evidence, physical evidence, the victim's injuries, and witness testimony were instrumental in the prosecution's case.

The defense argued that the database was inappropriate in the context of the Commonwealth but it was still admitted.

Aldan appealed his sentence, saying that the conviction should be reversed because the DNA analysis was wrongly admitted. He also asked that his sentence be vacated because it was mechanically imposed and insufficiently individualized, and for the court to vacate the denial of parole eligibility.

The high court found that they had erred in admitting the DNA analysis because the database used didn't fit the facts of the case required by the NMI Rule of Evidence. However, because the error was harmless, and even without the DNA analysis there was substantial evidence to convict Aldan, the high court instead vacated Aldan's parole eligibility because the trial court did not provide reasoning.



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Former detainee drops suit against DOC

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A former Department of Corrections pretrial detainee dropped his lawsuit against CNMI Department of Cor-

rections officials.

Clifford Jack Palacios pulled his lawsuit from the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week and informed the court he would no longer be pursuing his complaint.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice, which means Palacios can still refile the complaint in the future.

Palacios had sued DOC officials for

failure to provide medical care, failure to protect, failure to maintain safe premises, and failure to investigate.

Back in June, Manglona found Palacios' complaint deficient but allowed him to refile it by July 28.

She said some of Palacios' claims seemed cognizable, but the complaint itself was deficient because Palacios did not indicate whether he is suing the Corrections officials named in the complaint in their personal or official capacities, nor did he identify the specific remedy he is asking for.

On June 17, Palacios wrote to the court that he had been released from Corrections and indicated that he intended to add new factual allegations to his complaint.

The judge told him that he could file his amended complaint by Aug. 6. The deadline passed without the court receiving anything from Palacios so he was directed to appear in

person at a show-cause hearing last week. At the hearing, he said he did not wish to pursue the civil action.

In his lawsuit, Palacios named as defendants the Department of Corrections, Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez, Corrections officials and officers Georgia Cabrera, Kelvin Semena, Damian De Leon Guerrero, Patrick Dowai, and two unnamed Corrections officers.

Palacios said he sustained a head injury when another inmate threw a water bottle at him last January.

Palacios was arrested in November 2019 after he was accused of making 36 transactions amounting to \$15,614 through Western Union using his employer's debit card.

The Attorney General's Office charged Palacios with 36 counts of misuse of financial instruments. The case remains pending in the Superior Court.

TTT students learn boating safety and water quality

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Tasi To Table Youth Fishing Clubs, which consist of students from four high schools and their advisers, kicked off the TTT eight-month program last Nov. 7 with the clubs learning about the importance of water quality and boating safety at the CNMI Boating Safety Division, under the Department of Public Safety, and Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality.

The students from Da'ok Academy, Saipan Southern High, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School learned the importance of boating safety from Sgt. Adrian Mendiola, while Larry Maurin, BECQ Water Quality Surveillance and Non-Point Source Program manager, taught them about water quality.

Mendiola stressed the importance of safety in boating as he recounted the rescue missions the department has done. He said that the division is primarily responsible for recreational boaters, although they also assist in rescue missions involving commercial operations.

According to Mendiola, search and rescue operations usually last three days. After that, they cease operations.

"At most, you must always think about safety. Heading out into the ocean is fun and exciting, but you must always be mindful of what you and your vessel are capable of," said Mendiola.

Water quality

BECQ's Maurin and Ian Iriarte presented the importance of coastal water quality and how we can play a significant role in doing our part as citizens

of the Commonwealth. According to Maurin, in most instances, it is during hard rain when there is more concentration of bacteria in coastal water.

"Heavy rains produce land runoffs, thereby carrying polluted water to our oceans," he said.

BECQ provided a basic understanding of how water is tested for monitoring of e. coli and other bacteria levels in the beaches. "Our island is permeable, where water seeps into the ground and eventually finds its way back to the oceans," said Iriarte.

According to Maurin, one issue that we all need to stop doing is putting grease in sink drains, because these end up coming out as a solid and in some cases, clog the CUC sewer system, eventually overflowing and becomes part of the runoff into the ocean. This is one way to help: Do not dispose of grease in sink drains.

MARIJUANA

From Page 1

South Dakota voters who broadly legalized marijuana this month.

Stocker, 61, said enforcing marijuana laws gets in the way of pursuing other drug crimes and called warnings about the ills of marijuana "a bunch of baloney" that even people in a Republican stronghold like South Dakota no longer believe.

South Dakota's values of "personal responsibility and freedom" won out, said Stocker, who lives in Sioux Falls.

The 2020 election helped prove how broadly accepted marijuana has become throughout the United States, with measures to legalize recreational pot also breezing to victory in progressive New Jersey, moderate Arizona and conservative Montana. Fifteen states have now broadly legalized it, while 36 states allow medical marijuana.

Voters in Mississippi overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana

this month, giving the drug another foothold in the South.

A Gallup Poll released Nov. 9 indicated that 68% of Americans favor legalizing marijuana—double the approval rate in 2003. That wide margin was evident in the election, with marijuana measures passing with strong bipartisan support.

In South Dakota and Montana—where Republicans swept to victory in the key races—recreational marijuana passed with at least 16 percentage points more support than Democratic President-elect Joe Biden received. South Dakota also approved medical pot, which outpolled Biden by 34 percentage points.

"We've waged a war against this plant for a century and by any reasonable metric, that war has been an abject failure," said Matthew Schweich, deputy director of the Marijuana Policy Project, which favors legalization. "All it's done is incarcerate millions of Americans, it has perpetuated racism in this country, and perhaps the worst injustice of all is that it's deprived us of medical

marijuana research."

Marijuana is still illegal at the federal level, hurting veterans who can't be prescribed medical pot at Veterans Affairs clinics, he said.

They "come home with chronic pain and we're pushing them to opioids," Schweich said. "That's crazy. That's unpatriotic and it's a disgrace."

Support for legalization was around 25% in 1992 when then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton tried to avoid answering questions about whether he had used marijuana before finally saying in a television interview that he had experimented with the drug, didn't like it and "didn't inhale."

In early 2019, Kamala Harris—now the vice president-elect—was asked about her prior marijuana use during a radio interview and acknowledged: "I did inhale."

Brendan Johnson, a former U.S. attorney in South Dakota who supported the state's marijuana initiatives, said the campaign focused on the fact that in recent years 10% of arrests in the state were for marijuana, and most were small amounts.

GUAM

From Page 1

day, Nov. 14. It was not immediately reported as the traveler's origin needed to be verified in order to avoid double reporting. The confirmation results became available yesterday.

The individual has already been safely in quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area at the Kanoa Resort Alternative Care Site for close monitoring.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

In Guam, its Joint Information Center was notified that the territory's 98th COVID-19-related fatality

occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 10:34am yesterday. The patient was a 65-year-old female with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GRMC on Nov. 16, 2020, and tested positive upon admission.

Guam's 97th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at GMH at approximately 1:02am, also yesterday. The patient was a 64-year-old female with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GMH on Oct. 30, 2020, and was a known positive case.

Guam's 96th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 10:25pm Sunday night. The patient was a 50-year-old male and tested positive for COVID-19 upon admis-

sion on Nov. 4, 2020.

About four hours before that, at approximately 6:55pm, Guam posted its 95th COVID-19-related fatality at the U.S. Naval Hospital. The patient was a 72-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to USNH on Oct. 31, 2020, and was a known positive case.

"Our day is filled with sorrow as we learn of four more passings to COVID-19. May their families accept our deepest condolences and sympathies," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "Too many souls have been lost to this virus and too many people have been left to grieve. Our vigilance and our commitment to protecting each other are what will get us through this." (*Saipan Tribune*)

CEC

From Page 1

disclosed in an interview yesterday that they, along with a representative from the Office of the Public Auditor, had already picked up some absentee ballots from the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa last Thursday.

Villagomez said they have to wait until the 4pm closure of the post office today, Tuesday, to pick up the remaining absentee ballots.

Before tabulating the ballots, the CEC commissioners have to meet first to formulate the tabulation committee today, Tuesday, at 2pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Villagomez said the committee will then examine and decide regarding on the postmarked date of absentee ballots.

"The law says that we have to receive 14 days after [election day] but it has to be postmarked on our election day," Villagomez said.

CEC machines will then count the votes.

Villagomez earlier said that, excluding the remaining absentee ballots, there was a total of 12,919 who voted at the Nov. 3 general elections and that all ballots were counted.

CEC said that a total of 1,668 absentee ballots were sent and that they received 1,064. Villagomez said that they have not received 604 absentee ballots.

CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan earlier estimated that they will receive only about 50-100 absentee ballots.

The closest result that is likely to change is for the sixth and last place in Precinct 3 between Rep. Ralph Yumul of the Republican Party and Corina Lorraine Magofna of the Democratic Party. Yumul has 1,230 votes so far, while Magofna has 1,195—a margin of just 35 votes.

It's still difficult for Magofna to overtake Yumul as the remaining absentee ballots for Precinct 3 only total 60.

The other close contest is for the Tinian House seat between Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas of the Republican Party and Frederick Arend Dela Cruz of the Democratic Party. San Nicolas got 625 votes, while Dela Cruz received 579—a margin of 46.

As of Oct. 7, there was a total

of 18,519 registered voters in the CNMI. A total of 8,369 cast early votes in the Commonwealth.

Based on CEC's unofficial tabulation results, nine Democratic Party candidates prevailed. For the Saipan Senate it's Edith E. Deleon Guerrero and for the House of Representatives they are Edwin Kenneth Propst, Celina R. Babauta, Christina-Marie Elise Sablan, Denita K. Yangetmai, Vicente Castro Camacho, Sheila Therese Jack Babauta, Leila Haveia Fleming Staffler, and Richard Tudela Lizama.

For the Republicans, 10 GOP candidates won. For the Tinian Senate it's Karl Rosario King-Nabors and for the House they are Roy Christopher Ada, Angel Aldan Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero, John Paul Sablan, Blas Jonathan Attao, Ivan Alafanson Blanco, Ralph Naraja Yumul, Joel Castro Camacho, and Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), an independent, ran unopposed for his seventh term. Five other independents prevailed—Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Rep. Joseph Arriola Flores, Rep. Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, and Rep. Donald Manalang Manglona.

Delegate Sablan, Sen. Manglona, and Rep. Manglona are aligning with the Democratic Party.

Majority voted for the retention on the bench of Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

For Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, Ana Demapan Castro and Antonia Manibusan Tudela are sure winners as they are the only candidates for three seats.

For the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Council, the three who made it based on the unofficial results are Joseph Romaldo Evangelista Santos, Michal Nap King Aldan, and Thomasa Rita Palacios Mendiola.

For the Rota Municipal Council, the three who made it are William Apatang Taitano, Jonovan Hocog Lizama, and Jim Michael Atalg.

For the Board of Education Saipan and Northern Islands, the sure winners are Maisie Bermudes Tenorio and Gregory Pat Borja.

For BOE Rota, Herman Manglona Atalg was the only candidate.

BOE Tinian had no slot in this election.

Gold Mantis seeks extension to comply with court orders

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In response to the U.S. District Court for the NMI's show-cause order, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC has asked the court to give it more time to comply with previous orders in the lawsuit filed by seven construction workers.

Tiberius Mocanu, who represents Gold Mantis, said that Gold Mantis does not oppose a daily sanction. Rather, the imposition of a \$2,000 daily fine has further motivated Gold Mantis to comply with the court's order and it will do so if it is granted an extension.

In addition, Mocanu asked the court not to issue a de-

fault ruling against them and to instead give the company an opportunity to produce the necessary information by Nov. 25.

Mocanu explained that production of discovery has been difficult as Gold Mantis does not have any personnel physically present in the CNMI and that Gold Mantis has vacated its offices in the CNMI because the company has no further dealings or business in the Commonwealth.

He added that Gold Mantis has been working diligently to produce the documents and information it was ordered to produce.

Mocanu assured the court that Gold Mantis has paid what it owed its accounting

firm and it has produced 300-plus financial documents.

The company has also interviewed Ding Jianming, Pang Hao, and Yuan Wei, who are former employees, in order to comprehensively provide affidavits regarding the preservation of evidence, the efforts made to locate Electronically Stored Information, documents, and hardware that might contain responsive information.

On top of that, Gold Mantis, through its representative Huang Ji, has also authorized Mocanu to seek additional documents from Bank of Ha-

waii where it maintained an account, and also to seek tax filings from the CNMI Department of Finance.

Last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered Gold Mantis to answer by Nov. 15 why a default judgment should not be entered against it for noncompliance.

Manglona also asked for an explanation why the court should not treat Gold Mantis' noncompliance as contempt of court and why the court should not impose a civil contempt sanction requiring it to pay a \$2,000 daily fine from

the time all discovery and affidavits were to be produced.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in Oct. 19, Manglona ordered Gold Mantis to produce all bank records, produce all records held by Gold Mantis' accountant, produce all documents related to a People's Republic of China government inquiry into Gold Mantis' operations on Saipan, produce all responsive electronically-stored information or ESI, provide detailed affidavits describing Gold Mantis' efforts to preserve and search for ESI, provide updated responses to the plaintiffs' request for proposals and in-

terrogatories, and submit a certification of compliance with the order. Gold Mantis was ordered to provide these by Oct. 29.

Aside from Wang, the other plaintiffs in the case are Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu and Duxin Yan.

The plaintiffs worked for MCC International and Gold Mantis, former contractor and subcontractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs are suing the defendants for forced labor, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractors. The plaintiffs are also alleging human trafficking violations.

USCIS revises naturalization test

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday plans to implement a revised version of the naturalization civics test. The agency first announced plans to revise the civics test in July 2019.

USCIS revised the civics test as part of a decennial update to ensure that it remains an instrument that comprehensively assesses applicants' knowledge of American history, government and civic values.

The civics test is administered to applicants who apply for U.S. citizenship and is one of the statutory requirements for naturalizing. Applicants who apply for naturalization on or after Dec. 1, 2020, will take the updated version of the test. Those who apply before Dec. 1, 2020, will take the current version of the test.

The revised test includes

more questions that test the applicant's understanding of U.S. history and civics, in line with the statutory requirements, and covers a variety of topics that provide the applicant with more opportunities to learn about the United States as part of the test preparation process. The revised test will not change the passing score, which will remain at 60%. Candidates must answer 12 questions correctly, out of 20 in order to pass.

USCIS will maintain the current guidelines for statutorily established special considerations for applicants who are 65 years old or older and have at least 20 years of lawful permanent resident status. These applicants will be asked 10 questions and must answer a minimum of six questions correctly in order to pass. (USCIS)

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Iakopo: Our debt to veterans can never be repaid

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, who is a veteran himself, spoke of the unique insights of veterans at the Veterans Day ceremony last Nov. 11 at the American Memorial Park by urging people to ask themselves the question: “How does it feel to enjoy freedom at the expense of a veteran’s life?”

Iakopo said that the freedoms today that so many people enjoy is because of the men and women who “are willing to give their lives for you.”

Citing a poem penned by Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez from the early '90s, Iakopo asked: “Have you forgotten who I am? What I stand for? And where I’ve been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam. Take a good look one of these days...at the memorial honor roll...of all the names that never came back.”

He pointed out that people usually have different reactions when they find out that someone is enlisting versus



NEIL FAMA

Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo delivers his remarks at the Veterans Day ceremony last Nov. 11 at the American Memorial Park.

when they come back from deployment. “When a family member joins the military,

we celebrate. Families throw parties. ...These new recruits are the pride of their commu-

nities across the country or the Pacific Islands, but when they return, they don’t get that warmth. No appreciation, no incentives, no discounts, and no support. All they get is a mere thank you for your service, if they’re lucky,” said Iakopo, adding that there are veterans who bring physical pains and emotional scars back home, while everyone else enjoys freedom every day, and our veterans “pay dearly for every freedom.”

“There is a bond between veterans because they have to suffer the wounds of war. The sacrifices they made, friends they’ve lost, not being there during the birth of their son or daughter, missing wedding

anniversaries, to name a few things,” said Iakopo. “...We should take a minute to imagine what it would be like to not be able to be here today.”

Iakopo pointed out that freedom gives us the privilege to do what we want, wherever we want, freedom to worship how we want, but most especially, the freedom to speak.

He said the Northern Marianas owes a lot to its veterans. “Many veterans sacrifice their health, their limbs, their mental wellbeing and, most of all, some gave the ultimate, their life. We could only imagine the agony of war. Our veterans lived it,” he said.

Santos finds revolving accounts for Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said she has found out that there are certain revolving accounts established by legislation that provided for specific collection of fees that should remain with the senatorial district or should be provided to the senatorial district.



Santos

Santos said she just learned about the revolving accounts during the government’s 2021 budget public hearings.

The senator recently urged Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to work with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to identify those accounts and funds in the accounts so that the funds can be used consistent with the laws.

In order for the Rota municipality to tap these revolving account funds, it is necessary for the Rota mayor to communicate with Atalig to review the accounts and for the Finance secretary to certify the available funds in each account, Santos said.

These revolving account funds are on top of the funds provided to the Rota municipality through the fiscal year annual budget appropriation, she added.

“This supplemental funding is certainly a great help to the municipality, most especially now in this downturn of economic activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Santos told Efraim Atalig.

She did not mention the amount covered by the revolving account funds but cited the revolving accounts funds of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/OD2A-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“CREATIVE DIGITAL AND PRINT SERVICES”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/THC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“TINIAN HEALTH CENTER STORM READINESS PROJECT”

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-005

SUBMISSION DATE: December 18, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M

“Island Wide Emergency Repair, Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings Project No.EY-19, (002) Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 4, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 11, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-006

SUBMISSION DATE: December 18, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

“Island Wide Emergency Repair, Miscellaneous Items Project No. EY-19, (003) Saipan”

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 4, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 11, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-007

SUBMISSION DATE: December 18, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“Miscellaneous Emergency Repair, Traffic Signs and Roadway Pavement Project No. EY-19, (005) Tinian”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 4, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Mayor Office, Tinian. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 11, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DPS: 'Missing' report was miscommunication

The Department of Public Safety responded to two missing fishermen report early last Saturday evening, but later determined that it was a case of miscommunication on the swimmers' part.

In a statement from DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, he said the swimmers who went out spearfishing at Susupe Beach last Saturday were accounted for as of 7pm Saturday night.

Further investigation uncovered that there was a miscommunication between the

four fishermen that prompted two of the men to call in a missing persons' report.

Pangelinan said that DPS got a call from two of the four spearfishermen at around 6pm, that two of their companions were missing. They told police they had gone spearfishing and only two returned to land.

"The group went out at 11am and only two returned. They reported two who were overdue to return," Pangelinan said.

One of the supposed missing fishermen was found at

Minacho Atdao at around 6:30pm and he was waiting for his partner who was also presumed missing.

The man who was found at Minachom Atdao told police that he and his partner split from their other two companions before 2pm but the last time he saw his partner was at a buoy. He came to shore at around 5pm and could no longer spot his partner.

Police later learned that the last missing fisherman actually went home at around 3pm without telling his companions that he was done for the day.

"We contacted the fisherman and we verified that he was home safely. All the fishermen were safe. [One] just didn't mention that he was going home. [The other missing swimmer] did not mention to [to his companions] that he was going to Minachom [Atdao]. That's where the mix-up happened," said Pangelinan.

At the scene, *Saipan Tribune* met with the two fishermen who reported that their companions were missing. The two were 16 and 17 years old, while the two presumed missing were 26 and 16 years old.

The group have fished together before and are experienced in spearfishing. They said this was the first time that an incident like this has happened to them. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

USVI gets \$2.78M CIP funds

The Trump Administration, through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs transmitted this week \$2.78 million in Capital Improvement Program funds to Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr. for the benefit of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The funding will be used to improve the centerline road on St. John, the wastewater treatment plant on St. Croix, and to purchase emergency vehicles for all three islands in the territory," said assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech.

The fiscal year 2021 CIP funding totaling \$2,780,000 was provided for the following projects:

■ \$1,842,023 - Rehabilita-

tion of the Centerline Road on Route 10 at Cruz and Coral Bays on St. John.

■ \$705,977 - Maintenance and repair of the Harold G. Thompson Wastewater Treatment Plant on St. Croix.

■ \$232,000 - Acquisition of four quick-response vehicles for the Virgin Islands Fire Services to be used on St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix.

Other support the OIA has provided for the territory includes \$300,000, which was provided to fund the prerequisite environmental compliance process associated with the exchange of lands between the National Park Service and the USVI government as announced on Oct. 22, 2020. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-004

Opening Date: October 30, 2020

Closing Date: November 19, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Assistant Petroleum Compliance Manager "AM"
Petroleum Compliance
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$96,657.60 per annum, Exempt / Ungraded
2 Year Contract
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Petroleum Compliance Manager (aka Technical Manager for Oil) or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Position shall be primarily responsible for oversight of projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management in support of the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- The AM shall assist the Petroleum and Compliance Manager in overseeing all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations, compliance activities and project deliverables on a daily basis, as required by stipulated order.
- The AM shall also function as the Acting Petroleum Compliance Manager during the absence or non-availability of the Petroleum Compliance Manager and will be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding section 311 Clean Water Act compliance, including representation in the US Federal court and before other regulatory agencies.
- The Executive Director may delegate authority to the AM during the absence of the Petroleum Compliance Manager including authority to make decisions for the management and operations of oil related items required by stipulated order. These examples of duties are not exhaustive, and the incumbent may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.
- Additional projects for power generation infrastructure development may be requested of AM directly, by Executive Director.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: A Bachelor's degree in Engineering or other natural science as Chemistry, Biology or Environmental Studies. 10 years of project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills. A minimum of three (3) years in oil spill, prevention, preparedness, and response. Work in environmental assessment as related to power plant operations and extensive knowledge of BECO and EPA regulations. 5 years of experience in preparing bid documents or request for quotations and proposals. 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Project management principles; Contract management principles; Procurement practices; Engineering principles related to utilities and power generation; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Environmental compliance principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Prioritizing and assigning work activities and projects (based on assignment); Reviewing and evaluating contract work, plans and specifications; Monitoring contractual compliance related to budget, schedules, and quality; Evaluating contract proposals and providing award recommendations; Serving as liaison with management and regulatory agencies; Identifying issues and presenting recommendations; Preparing scope of work documentation for proposal requests; Preparing status and progress reports; Providing required data and updates for regulatory purposes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

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All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your completed CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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BANK OF HAWAII SMALL BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT MONEY SMART SEMINAR

**FREE OF
CHARGE**

**WHEN: Wednesday,
November 18, 2020**

**TIME: 5:00PM -
7:00PM**

PRESENTED BY:

In this workshop, Bank of Hawaii Vice President/Relationship Manager Private Banking, Desiree M. Braga, will provide an overview about the Bank of Hawaii Small Business Revitalization Grant Program.

We would be discussing the following:
BOH Grant Application
ABC's of Credit



**Desiree M. Braga,
Vice President
Private Banking,
Bank of Hawaii**

SUPPORTED BY



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<https://pisbdcn.eccenterdirect.com/events/4662>.

For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call CNMI SBDC at 664-3018

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NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS INC. NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**SUBMISSION DATE: NOV. 20, 2020
TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL"

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. is a non-profit organization that protects the civil, legal, and human interests of people with disabilities. NMPASI is seeking an office space to lease for 2 years with option to renew. The space must be 2,000 - 3,000 sq. ft. all inquiries must be directed to our Executive Director, James M. Rayphand.

Please submit proposal no later than the above date and time. NMPASI is located in Gualo Rai, Middle Road. Tel. Nos. 235-7273/74, Fax. 235-7275, Website: www.nmpasi.org.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Who's ready for some bipartisanship in DC? We can dream

If you're wondering why Congress seems to accomplish so little, here's a recap to get you steamed but in the end provides a scintilla of hope: Months ago, with COVID-19 raging, House Democrats passed a second aid package to send to states and local governments, this one totaling a very expensive \$3 trillion. The Dems meant for it to be an opening bid; they came back with a \$2.2 trillion version. Senate Republicans had countered with a \$1 trillion offer, later reduced to a smaller, simpler version that Democrats blocked.

So opening bids of \$3 trillion from one side and \$1 trillion on the other, but no deal. Were there no members willing to work across the aisle to bring legislation to the finish line? Was every member of Congress so tightly bound to the script of compromise is defeat that they were willing to let Americans continue to suffer through the pandemic?

Yes and no. Yes because there's still no second relief bill; no because there was a group of moderate Republican and Democratic House members who worked through their differences to propose a \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion package. It included stimulus checks, unemployment aid, money for state and local governments and small business loans that could have lasted through next spring. The plan went nowhere but showed that some members of both parties were willing to listen to each other in order to craft legislation.

Who were those outlier members? Politico described them as "rogue rank-and-file," but the group has a name: the House Problem Solvers Caucus. They are 50 moderate representatives, evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, who preach compromise and bipartisanship.

Things in Washington now look even messier than usual, with Republicans and Democrats not even in agreement over who was elected president. So this may seem like a heck of a time to be daydreaming about middle ground. Yet when the dust settles as expected, President-elect Joe Biden will take office as an old-school moderate Democrat. Progressives will try to tug him to the left, but he ran pledging to be a unifier. In the House, Democrats appear on track to retain a narrow majority after losing several seats. In the Senate, control will be determined by two runoff elections in Georgia.

One scenario says to expect only more gridlock. Another says thin partisan majorities in Congress plus a new president who runs at a lower temperature could set the scene for more cooperation. "It's our mission and it seems like a good moment," Rep. Brad Schneider, D-Ill., a member of the Problem Solvers, tells us.

The Problem Solvers group formed in 2017. Its goal is as noble as any in government: "We strive to work together, regardless of party or background, to improve the lives of all citizens." Name the tough-nut issue of the day and it has worked on a compromise: infrastructure, drug pricing, immigration, health care. Often, gridlock gets the best of the

See WHO'S on Next Page



A COVID vaccine could make social divisions worse

The Pfizer vaccine, along with its likely successors, is a very good thing for the U.S. and the world. Yet it's also likely to reshape America in some unsettling ways, segregating society more tightly into rational and irrational responders, especially in the short run.

The first issue will be how Americans respond over the course of the next few months. Simple logic suggests that when a good vaccine is pending, you should play it much safer. Instead of putting off that vacation indefinitely, just wait until you're vaccinated, possibly as soon as next summer. In theory that should be an easier adjustment to make, as indicated by what economists call "intertemporal substitution": waiting for a short time is easier and less costly than waiting for a long time.

Many people will behave in such a rational fashion. But many will instead take more risk. As the prospect of a post-COVID America becomes more vivid, the temptations of going out and socializing now will become more powerful. Once people start thinking about the imminent prospect of partying and fine dining, they might find it harder to resist the idea of just going ahead with it now, despite the higher risk. The giddiness occasioned by a vaccine might have some counterintuitive and negative effects.

Of course, some truly rational and forward-looking people will realize that some of their friends and contacts will behave in this less responsible manner. The more rational among us thus will take greater care to avoid those whom they do not trust, as well as those who have front-line service jobs and thus cannot avoid contact with these less responsible individuals. The rationalists will cocoon themselves more, most of all from strangers and known irrationalists.

Another possibility is that norms of social scorn will weaken, and confusion will reign for a while. Currently, if you shop without a mask or hog the middle of the jogging path in the park, you will be asked to leave or given dirty looks. These are healthy social reactions that help to keep the virus under control.

Will that remain the case once 10% or 20% of the population has been vaccinated? Furthermore, by then a higher percentage of the population already will have had COVID-19. You could imagine that, by February or March, 30% to 40% of the American population either will have had COVID (a form of vaccination in fact, albeit a dangerous one), or have received a proper vaccine. Many of them will take off their masks in public spaces.

Will you still be so inclined to give non-mask-wearers dirty looks? Their behavior might be just fine and pose no risk to oth-

By **TYLER COWEN**
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog *Marginal Revolution*. His books include *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*.



ers or you. And the vaccinated will themselves be less likely to give dirty looks to other non-mask-wearers, because they will not personally feel so threatened.

In other words, some highly useful norms may end up weaker during the transition phase. People who remain unvaccinated and vulnerable may temporarily face higher rather than lower risks.

Or what if three vaccinated family members or friends propose going to a movie with a fourth unvaccinated person? Will she so readily say no? The possibility of such situations—the fear of the unknown—will make rational, unvaccinated people all the more determined to limit their social interactions, at least for a while.

These forms of segregation will be reinforced by the economics of the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine requires extreme cold storage at about minus 70 degrees Celsius. Many rural hospitals cannot afford that expense, and so many communities will receive the vaccine much more slowly. COVID-19 might persist as a largely rural phenomenon.

Or how about colleges and universities? Students should be back on campus by the fall semester, and they will demand that all students and faculty and staff be vaccinated—and they may also help supply the vaccine. Thus a vaccine divide will form between educated and non-educated young Americans. And given that no vaccine is likely to prove 100% effective, many educated Americans will remain risk-averse and avoid contact with rural, lower-income, less-educated Americans.

It almost goes without saying, of course, that a partially vaccinated population is far better than no vaccine at all. So celebration is entirely appropriate. But along the way we are going to face a new set of problems, and now is the time to start thinking about them.

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3 estate-planning pitfalls to avoid

Most people create an estate plan and then ignore it for years. But you wouldn't drive a car off the dealership lot and then never change the oil or replace the tires, would you?

The same is true for an estate plan. It needs periodic maintenance too—especially after major life events like a birth, death, marriage, or divorce.

Below are three common problems that tend to crop up when a person doesn't review their will, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate-planning documents every now and again.

Designating a fiduciary who no longer makes sense

Why is it important to get the fiduciary right? Because the person you pick as fiduciary will have the legal right to make key decisions about your health and finances. For example, if you fall into a coma or suffer dementia, a fiduciary listed in a health care power of attorney will have the right to make medical decisions for you while your agent under a financial POA may control your bank accounts and even have the right to sell your land.

And that's just the fiduciaries with the right to step in during your life. Afterward, there's another batch of fiduciaries. For instance, if you created a trust (thus bypassing the court-supervised probate process), then a fiduciary known as a trustee will distribute your stuff according to the trust document. Or if you did not have a trust (either because you selected a will or did not bother with any estate planning), then your stuff will need to go through probate. For the six months to several years this process lasts, your stuff (i.e., your estate) will be managed by a fiduciary known as either an administrator or an executor.

In all of those cases, your fiduciary is legally obligated to act in your best interest. But experiences vary and someone who may have been a good fit for the role when you created your estate plan may no longer be so 10 years later whether because of age, a move, a deterioration in your relationship, or something else.

The kids have grown up

When you have underage kids, you have one set of estate-planning decisions to make. When they become adults, you have a different set of decisions to make.

For underage kids, the major question is who should be guardian if both parents pass away unexpectedly. For people with trusts, the

other issue is how to distribute trust assets, with the answer usually being something like distributing the assets in several chunks such as a third at age 25, another third at 30, and the rest at 35.

For adult kids, the relevant questions tend to morph into: Are they financially responsible? What if they get divorced? And what's the best way for me to pass my assets to them?

If your kid is lousy with money or not ready to handle receiving a bunch of money at once, you may want to impose some safety nets to reduce the potential damage. For example, to use the 25-30-35 scenario just discussed, if your kid receives a third of the money when they are 25 and they waste it, they'll have extra chances to do better at 30 and again at 35.

If your kid is in a rocky marriage, you may not want your kid to inherit everything at once because while the inheritance will initially just go to your kid, those assets will likely get commingled into the marital finances. When that happens, it will become fair game in a divorce.

And if your kid operates a business, rents out property, or does something that might put them at higher risk of being sued, you may not want them to get all of their inheritance at once either. That's because the money would become accessible to your kid's creditors. By contrast, if you keep the money in a trust, and give the trustee proper instructions, that inheritance is much more likely to wind up with your kid rather than their creditors.

Not addressing HIPAA

HIPAA stands for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, a 1996 law that created national standards for protecting the confidentiality of your medical records and personal health information. As part of that, HIPAA established serious fines if your health

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

care provider gives out that information improperly.

The upshot is that your estate-planning documents need to address HIPAA. Otherwise your health care provider will not freely share the information with the correct people. And that, in turn, will delay or impede health care decisions at critical moments.

This issue can be solved through a standalone document known as a HIPAA Waiver, which says that your designated agent can view your medical records. Or it can be handled by including a HIPAA waiver in your living will, advanced health directive, and medical power of attorney.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

If kids are not superspreaders, why do we keep treating them like they are?

I am not one for coddling children, but the narrative that our kids bear some outsize responsibility for the spread of COVID is demonstrably false.

Since the pandemic began, kids and their activities have been an easy scapegoat: Don't open the schools! Don't let them trick-or-treat!

Blaming kids is easy but also unfair, and it's always to their detriment.

Take as an example last week's meeting of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court in Fort Worth, Texas, when county Judge Glen Whitley said that school, county and city youth athletic events should be suspended to fend off the latest surge of COVID-19 cases.

"A lot of (the surge in cases) is related to the opening back of schools," he contended, and then pivoted to sports, naming association sports as well as high school athletics as the culprits.

"I believe very strongly that those are some of the areas that are causing the significant increase in spread," Whitley said.

Sure, it's possible.

But he provided no data to support his claim, other than his own anecdotes and experiences at said events, contributing to the palpable sense that his assertions like so many about COVID these days, were little more than guesses.

What's happening now that wasn't happening before? High school volleyball. Youth softball. That must be it.

When in reality, community spread is far more likely the result of cooler weather coaxing more people indoors, people reengaging in social activities and gatherings (who can blame them?) and general COVID fatigue.

(And since we're using anecdotes, none of the people I know who have had COVID got it from school or from attending a youth sporting event.)

But why not blame kids?

I'm not picking on Whitley in particular.

It's been the wont of many people since this all began to assume that kids would be incredible vectors of disease and destruction. I expected it too, since kids usually are. I know—I have three.

But for reasons that are nothing short of divine grace, kids are not only being spared from the worst of this illness, they are sparing others by not being significant sources of spread.

This is especially true for very young children who are far more likely to get COVID from an adult than give it to an adult or even another child. As it stands, only 8% of cases in Tarrant

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

County are among children 15 and under.

Research indicates that the incidence of disease increases with age; teenagers are more likely to get COVID and potentially spread it than elementary-aged kids.

But local data suggests that even older kids are probably not the driving force behind the surge. The next age cohort, 15-24, accounts for 19% of cases in Tarrant, but it's not an outrageous assumption that the caseload among that group is heavily concentrated among those 18 and older, based on national/CDC reports that show cases have increased dramatically among people in their 20s.

There are plenty of local schools that have not reported a single case of COVID. There are schools that have reported a surprising number of cases among virtual learners. And yes, there are schools where outbreaks have occurred.

As recently as this week, multiple districts in Tarrant County closed individual schools not due to case counts but to exposures that have forced scores of students and teachers to quarantine.

If the experiences of other schools hold true, most of those quarantined will never develop COVID—at least not as a result from their "exposure" at school.

In fairness, Whitley did remark that he believes much of the problem with youth sports is the fans, namely parents, in the stands or on the field, who he says he has personally witnessed not wearing masks or social distancing.

If you believe his contention that youth athletics are driving the spread, then this seems far more likely to be the reason why. But that same problem would apply to all manner of events and activities—college football, professional sports, parties—you name it.

And it would not be the fault of the kids.

So why do we keep punishing them?

WHO'S

From Page 8

group, but it has won battles too, such as pushing progressive colleagues last year to get on board with Republicans and pass a humanitarian aid package for the southern border.

There's a reason the Problem Solvers sound like Washington's quaintest notion. Power is concentrated at the top in Congress, and the goal of party leaders is to secure their agenda by steamrolling the other side. In that universe, progressive Democrats and conservative Republicans have the momentum because they are true believers. In many districts they are more likely to win elections by appealing to their political bases. Note that Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., a rare conservative Democrat and Problem Solver, lost his primary this year to progressive Marie Newman, who took the seat in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District last week.






Newman says she'll join the Congressional Progressive Caucus, not the Problem Solvers. No surprise. But she says Republicans and Democrats need to start talking to each other, and wants to be part of that. "I really believe in walking down the hall and talking to people and talking in small groups and finding consensus," she tells us. "I do think everybody is ready to do some compromising."

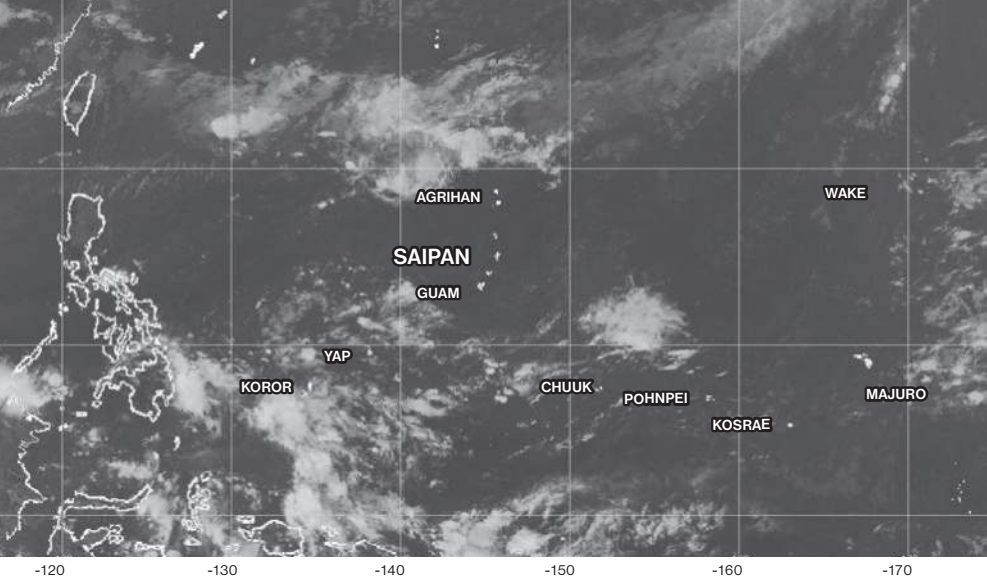
Schneider represents Illinois' generally moderate 10th District, which includes the North Shore. He says the strength of the Problem Solvers members is that they have more than a theoretical appreciation for bipartisanship; they meet weekly and have permanent working relationships across the aisle. You can plug them into any situation and they should be able to communicate. "The famous line is the best time to make a friend is not when you need one but before," he says. "We have those relationships."

Will Washington behave differently and get more done in 2021? We won't make that prediction, but it would sure be nice if it happens.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds are blowing this morning. Skies are partly cloudy with only a few light showers detected by the radar. A favorable upper-level pattern is enhancing trade-wind showers to the south near 11N and well east of Guam near 153E. A cold front is stretched out just north of 20N. Buoys and altimetry indicate seas around 4 to 5 feet with northeast and east swell sources.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:09 AM	7:42 PM	-
Wednesday	9:13 AM	8:43 PM	-
Thursday	10:14 AM	9:43 PM	-
Friday	11:09 AM	10:41 PM	-
Saturday	11:58 AM	11:37 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Windy	70° / 54°			
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°			
Hong Kong	Showers	82° / 63°			
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°			
London	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 52°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°			
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°			
New York	Sunny	51° / 38°			
Osaka	Rain	55° / 41°			
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 37°			
Busan	Windy	43° / 28°			
Rome	Sunny	64° / 43°			
Salem	Sunny	68° / 48°			
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 45°			
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 21°			
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 43°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	53° / 40°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:50 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.70	
9:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	
3:21 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04	
8:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO GUAM				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Black sugar bubble tea *promo* at Café De Hei

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Café de Hei re-opened last Friday after eight months of being shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To celebrate its return, owner Yun Hee Choi has launched a buy-two, get-one promotion on its signature black sugar bubble tea drink.

The promotion will be for a limited time only and will last from Nov. 13 to 22. "If you buy two drinks we will give you a free cup of black sugar bubble tea. We also have plans for various promotions in the future," she said.

Because of the coronavirus threat, Café de Hei had to stop operations just four months after it opened. "It has been temporarily closed for about eight months since the first week of March. People were very cautious of the new virus and, as a result, business was very slow."

Reopening after being



Café de Hei is quite strict implementing the COVID-19 Task Force's guidelines with staff and customers required to wear face masks all the time, sanitizers at the entrance, clearly marked "entrance" and "exit" points, and directional arrows inside the establishment to guide customers.

MARK RABAGO

closed nearly eight months is pretty much like opening day again for Choi and her staff. "I am preparing for the re-opening with nervousness, just like when I first opened. When I'm ready and have set it up, I will make a new item."

She is also thankful that despite the long sabbatical, Café de Hei's loyal customers are

still looking forward to their reopening.

"As we all know this virus has caused the whole world to be very serious. We all thought safety was more important to each other. Loyal customers were asking questions about the reopening since June. I was so thankful to the loyal customers who were interested in the cafe during eight months of rest."

Café de Hei is also quite strict implementing the CO-

For reservations, advance orders, and for more information, call 233-1234.

Japan pandemic-hit economy returns to growth July-September

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy grew at an annual rate of 21.4% in the last quarter in a recovery from the shocks of the pandemic driven by both private spending and exports.

The world's third largest economy had logged three straight quarters of contraction and was already in recession by the time the crisis hit. Preliminary data from the Cabinet Office released Monday show a distant road to a full recovery.

News that the economy returned to growth in the July-September quarter sent share prices higher in Tokyo. About an hour after the market opened the Nikkei 225 index was up 1.6%.

Japan, like the rest of the world, is suffering from the slowdown brought on by business closures, plunging tourism and travel and social distancing measures for COVID-19.

On a quarterly basis, the economy grew 5.0%. The annual rate measures how much the growth would have been if that had continued for a year.

The data showed improvements in private consumption, the main driver of growth, and

exports, including vehicles and auto parts. The rebound was expected, although analysts warn it won't be enough to mark a return to normal.

The economy shrank 8.2% in the April-June quarter; 0.6% in January-March and 1.8% in October-November 2019, according to Monday's data. Growth was flat in July-September 2019, underscoring stagnant conditions even before the pandemic.

"The Japanese economy for July-September 2020 is still in a severe situation due to the COVID-19, but it is showing movements of picking up later in the quarter," the government said in a statement.

The decline earlier this year was the worst the government had on record, at least since it began keeping comparable records in 1980. Japanese media reports characterized it as the worst since World War II.

Junichi Makino, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, said the GDP data reflect a halfway recovery that is expected to continue at a gradual pace.

"The driver of growth will

shift to the service sector," Makino said in a recent report, stressing consumption growth in that sector tends to be moderate, compared to the consumption of goods.

"The momentum for growth on the macroeconomic level is therefore expected to slow down," he said.

Japan has never had a total lockdown but incoming tourism has largely vanished. Many stores and restaurants are still open, and schools and government offices are mostly running as usual, despite widespread efforts in the private sector for remote working. Some shopping districts are packed, although nearly everyone wears masks.

The administration of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has been trying to balance the need to curtail the infection's spread with keeping the economy going. That has prompted some criticism over policies such as the government's "GoTo campaign" of discounts for domestic travel that some believe may have caused surging cases in rural areas, such as on the northern main island of Hokkaido.



Café de Hei is located behind 99 Cents in Garapan and is open from Monday to Friday, 8:30am-6pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:30am to 5pm.

MARK RABAGO



Café de Hei's mango smoothie.

MARK RABAGO

Aside from black sugar bubble milk tea, Café de Hei also serves Nespresso capsule coffee, other hot and cold drinks like frappes, coffee, smoothies, and, of course, different kinds of tea. It also has an assortment of breads, home-made ricotta cheese salad, French fries, crackers, honey bread, and home-made ricotta cheese on its menu.

"Thank you so much to our loyal customers who are interested in Café de Hei. I will continue to repay your loyalty with delicious food and drinks," said Choi.

Located behind 99 Cents in Garapan, Café de Hei is open from Monday to Friday, 8:30am-6pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30am-5pm. For reservations, advance orders, and for more information, call 233-1234.

VID-19 Task Force's guidelines, with staff and customers required to wear face masks all the time, sanitizers are at the entrance, clearly marked "entrance" and "exit" points, and directional arrows inside the establishment to guide

customers.

"It is cleanliness that is very important against the virus. I think cleaning and disinfecting with alcohol is the most important thing to prevent against the spread of the virus," said Choi.

Brexit: Trade deal 'may not succeed' before year end

LONDON (AP)—The U.K.'s chief Brexit negotiator said Sunday before renewed talks that a trade deal with the European Union may not succeed, but he was still hopeful of a resolution.

Arriving in Brussels, David Frost tweeted that "there has been some progress in a positive direction in recent days."

"We also now largely have common draft treaty texts, though significant elements are of course not yet agreed," he said. "We will work to build on these and get an overall agreement if we can. But we may not succeed."

Britain left the EU on Jan. 31, but continues to follow the bloc's economic rules until a transition period ends on Dec. 31. The two sides are trying to strike a new trade deal before then, but key sticking points such as fishing rights and competition rules haven't

been resolved.

The two sides say any post-Brexit deal must be agreed upon by mid-November in time for it to be ratified by year-end.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said the coming week is "a week when things need to move" for the U.K. and the EU to come to an agreement.

"Both sides recognize that time is very, very short," he said. "There does come a point frankly where businesses need to know what they are preparing for."

Ireland's foreign minister warned Sunday that there will be no trade deal if Britain continues to push ahead with legislation that breaks a legally binding Brexit treaty with the EU.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has acknowledged that the Internal Market Bill breaches interna-

tional law. But officials insist the bill is needed as an insurance policy, or "legal safety net," to ensure smooth trade among all parts of the U.K.—especially Northern Ireland, which shares a border with the EU—no matter what happens to U.K.-EU trade after Brexit.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told Sky News that "there is no way the EU will agree to ratify a new agreement if the British government is breaking the existing agreement that is not even 12 months old, and breaking international law by doing that."

Britain's House of Lords voted by large margins Monday to reject the bill, which has also drawn condemnation by U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, among others.

A failure to strike a deal will hurt both sides, with businesses facing tariffs and other barriers to trade starting on Jan. 1.

Nation

Progressives look to make early mark on Biden White House

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Leading progressives are pressuring President-elect Joe Biden to embrace their policy agenda even as more centrist Democrats argue such proposals prevented the party from retaking full control of Congress.

For now, much of the lobbying centers on who Biden should — or should not — appoint to key posts as he builds out the administration that will take office in January.

The left-leaning think tank Progressive Change Institute partnered with more than 40 activist groups and on Friday released a detailed list of 400 progressive policy experts they want Biden to bring on. That follows a separate effort from more than half a dozen progressive groups this week that signed letters urging the president-elect against naming anyone with ties to major corporate interests to key Cabinet posts.

“Now is absolutely the moment to push Biden to do what’s necessary to meet the moment,” said David Segel, a former Rhode Island state representative and executive director of Demand Progress, which was among those signing the letters. “And that



President-elect Joe Biden speaks at The Queen theater, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, in Wilmington, Del.

AP

means a robust economic response, a robust health care response, a willingness to push back against concentrated corporate power that’s fomenting inequality. And he has a mandate to do all of that.”

The jockeying amounts to

the opening round of what is likely to be a lengthy debate over the future of the Democratic Party. Some centrists have blamed losses in the House and a disappointing performance in the Senate on Republicans’ ability to paint

Democrats as having moved too far to the left.

That’s creating tension for a party that should be basking in the glow of defeating an incumbent president for the first time in nearly 30 years.

“We’re a big family. There’s lots of different parts to the family,” said Mitch Landrieu, the former Democratic mayor of New Orleans who has a reputation as a political centrist. “It’s a welcome discussion because the country is changing dramatically, and we have to think of how to navi-

gate into the future.”

Much of the focus will be on how Biden fills out his administration. In a letter earlier this week, top progressive groups asked Biden to “decline to nominate or hire corporate executives, lobbyists, and prominent corporate consultants to serve in high office.”

They also said he should aggressively make appointments while Congress is not in session and employ the Vacancy Act, a 1998 law that allows for appointments to administration positions for more

than 200 days without Senate approval.

Doing either would keep Senate Republicans from blocking Biden’s top choices — especially the most progressive ones whose nominations would face the toughest confirmation fights. Additionally, the groups sent a similar letter to Senate Democrats instructing them to hold Biden accountable to those demands.

Biden has promised to expand Obama administration ethics rules curbing lobbyist and corporate interests in government, a stark departure from the Trump administration’s friendly relationship with large businesses. But he’s also leaning on advisers with deep Washington experience and calling for bipartisanship and healing a divided nation — meaning his new administration could drift naturally toward the middle, steered there by his top choices for top positions.

Biden won the presidency by refusing to embrace his party’s most liberal causes, government-funded health care under “Medicare for All” and the Green New Deal, a collection of proposals to drastically remake the economy to combat climate change. He moved to the left amid the coronavirus outbreak, though, and is now promising to revive the economy once the pandemic subsides by spending \$2 trillion to create green jobs and prioritize infrastructure improvements that reduce emissions and work to curb climate change.

Trump tweets words ‘he won,’ says vote rigged, not conceding

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump worked Sunday to take back an apparent acknowledgement that Joe Biden won the White House and was making clear he would keep trying to overturn the election result.

Trump’s earlier comments had given some critics and supporters hope that the White House was ready to begin working on a transition with Biden’s team. Not so fast, Trump would soon assure.

Trump, without using Biden’s name, said that “He won” as part of a tweet that made baseless claims about a “rigged” election. But as the president saw how his comments were being interpreted as his first public acknowledgment of a Biden victory, Trump quickly reversed course.

“He only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA,” Trump subsequently tweeted. “I concede NOTHING! We have a long way to go. This was a RIGGED ELECTION!”

There was no widespread fraud in the 2020 election. In fact, election officials from both political parties stated publicly that the election went well, and international observers confirmed there were no serious irregularities. Trump’s

campaign has tried to mount legal challenges across the country, but many of the lawsuits have been thrown out and none has included any evidence that the outcome might be reversed.

Biden defeated Trump by winning back a trio of battleground states: Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and topped the 270 electoral vote threshold to clinch the presidency. Biden so far has 78.8 million votes, the most ever by a winning candidate, to Trump’s 73.1 million.

“If the president’s prepared to begin to recognize that reality, that’s positive,” Biden’s incoming chief of staff, Ron Klain, told NBC’s “Meet the Press.” Still, Klain said, “Donald Trump’s Twitter feed doesn’t make Joe Biden president or not president. The American people did that.”

A Republican governor, Arkansas’ Asa Hutchinson, said “it was good, actually” to see Trump’s tweet that Biden won. “I think that’s the start of an acknowledgment. ... We want to make sure that there is a smooth transition,” Hutchinson said on NBC.

Nearly two weeks after Election Day, Trump has neither called Biden nor made a

formal concession, and White House officials have insisted that they are preparing for a second term.

Former President Barack Obama, in an interview conducted and aired Sunday on CBS’ “60 Minutes,” said he would remind Trump that, as president, he is a public servant and a temporary occupant of the office.

“And when your time is up then it is your job to put the country first and think beyond your own ego, and your own interests, and your own disappointments,” Obama said. “My advice to President Trump is, if you want at this late stage in the game to be remembered as somebody who put country first, it’s time for you to do the same thing.”

Obama also criticized those Republicans going along with Trump’s false claims of widespread voter fraud.

“I’m more troubled by the fact that other Republican officials who clearly know better are going along with this, are humoring him in this fashion. It is one more step in delegitimizing not just the incoming Biden administration, but democracy generally. And that’s a dangerous path,” he said.

2 states announce new virus restrictions as US cases hit 11M

Michigan and Washington on Sunday joined several other states in announcing renewed efforts to combat the coronavirus as more than 11 million cases of COVID-19 have now been reported in the United States — with the most recent million coming in less than a week — and as many Americans prepare to observe a Thanksgiving holiday marked by the pandemic.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s administration ordered high schools and colleges to stop in-person classes, closed restaurants to indoor dining and suspended organized sports — including the football playoffs — in an attempt to curb the state’s spiking case numbers. The order also restricts indoor and outdoor residential gatherings, closes some entertainment facilities and bans gyms from hosting group exercise classes.

The new rules, set to last

three weeks, are extensive but not as sweeping the Democratic governor’s stay-at-home order this past spring, when she faced criticism from a Republican-led Legislature that refused to extend the state’s coronavirus emergency declaration and authorized a lawsuit challenging Whitmer’s authority to combat the pandemic. She faced pushback from those who opposed the decision to toughen rather than relax what already was one of the nation’s strictest stay-home orders.

“The situation has never been more dire,” Whitmer, who authorities say also was the target of a kidnapping plot spurred on by anger over her earlier virus measures, said at a Sunday evening news conference. “We are at the precipice and we need to take some action.”

The directives from Michigan come on the same day that

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced the state would enforce new restrictions on businesses and social gatherings for the next month as it, too, continued to combat a rising number of cases.

Starting Tuesday, gyms and some entertainment centers in Washington will be required to close their indoor services. Retail stores, including grocery stores, will be ordered to limit indoor capacity and multiple-household, indoor social gatherings will be prohibited unless attendees have quarantined for 14 days or tested negative for COVID-19 and quarantined for a week. By Wednesday, restaurants and bars will again be limited to outdoor dining and to-go service.

The actions also follow grim milestones passed by Texas and California last week as the states each marked more than 1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.

Asia

Strong storm leaves 42 dead, 20 missing in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thick mud and debris coated many villages around the Philippine capital on Friday after a typhoon killed at least 42 people and caused extensive flooding that sent people fleeing to their roofs, officials said.

Troops, police, coast guard and disaster-response teams rescued tens of thousands of people, including many who flooded radio and TV networks and social media with desperate pleas for help.

Floodwaters receded and the weather cleared in many areas after Typhoon Vamco blew out into the South China Sea on Friday, but the military said it was still rescuing people trapped in some flooded communities.

Amphibious assault vehicles usually used in counter-insurgency operations were deployed for the rescue work, military chief of staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay said in a meeting with disaster-response officials.

“We’ll continue to look for the missing, help in damage assessment,” Gapay said.

The national police reported that the death toll had risen to at least 42 with 20 missing. The government’s main disaster-response agency, which waits for provincial reports and follows a laborious process of verifying casualties, reported a much lower death count, causing confusion.

Among the dead were at least 12 villagers who were dug out from mud and rockslides in the northern provinces of Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya, police said.

After slamming into north-eastern Quezon province, Vamco gained strength with sustained winds of 155 kilo-



A policeman carries his belongings across debris and muds at the typhoon-damaged Kasiglahan village in Rodriguez, Rizal province, Philippines on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020.

meters (96 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph (158 mph). It blew north of metropolitan Manila overnight Wednesday, toppling trees and power poles, swelling rivers, flooding residential communities and setting off landslides and storm surges.

In hard-hit Marikina city in the capital region and the towns of Rodriguez and Cainta in nearby Rizal province, several villages were inundated by water that reached the second and third floors of many houses, prompting hundreds of residents to flee to their roofs and call TV and radio networks or post desperate messages on social media. The panic was exacerbated by widespread power outages and loss of internet access.

Videos of Marikina showed a thick coat of muddy water covering roads and staining houses and cars. Residents carried appliances and furniture from their homes and used pails and shovels to remove the mud after the water receded.

In a televised meeting of Cabinet and disaster-response

officials Friday, a reporter asked where President Rodrigo Duterte was, prompting an annoyed response from his spokesman.

“The president’s whereabouts should not be asked. That’s foolishness coming from the opposition. The president is not missing, he is always with us,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said, without offering any further details.

More than 400,000 people were evacuated to higher ground before the typhoon hit, mainly residents of vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas.

At least 3.8 million households lost power in the capital and outlying provinces, but crews later restored electricity in many areas. Government offices were closed and most classes were suspended Friday.

Vamco hit the Philippines on the heels of Typhoon Goni, one of the strongest typhoons in the world this year, which left more than 30 people dead or missing and damaged or destroyed 270,000 houses. Tens of thousands of people were still displaced when Vamco hit.

newed surge in recent weeks, recording more new cases than any other Indian state.

On Sunday, New Delhi registered 7,340 new cases, including 96 deaths.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Authorities in Sri Lanka say about 400 inmates and officers in the country’s highly congested prisons have tested positive for the coronavirus as infections spike in the capital and its suburbs. Twelve of those who tested positive are officers, while the rest are inmates.

The cases were detected at five prisons in different parts of the country. Sri Lanka

prisons are filled with more than 26,000 inmates in facilities meant to hold 10,000. The island nation has seen a fresh outbreak of the virus since last month when two clusters—one centered at a garment factory and another at a fish market—emerged in the capital, Colombo, and its suburbs. The confirmed cases from the two clusters have grown to 13,079. Sri Lanka has confirmed a total of 16,582 cases, including 53 deaths.

World

AS CHAOS EMBROILS PERU Interim president resigns

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru’s interim president resigned Sunday as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation’s popular leader.

In a short televised address, Manuel Merino said Congress acted within the law when he was sworn into office as chief of state Tuesday, despite protesters’ allegations that legislators had staged a parliamentary coup.

“I, like everyone, want what’s best for our country,” he said.

The politician agreed to step down after a night of unrest in which two young protesters were killed and half his Cabinet resigned. Peruvians cheered the decision, waving their nation’s red and white flag on the streets of Lima and chanting “We did it!” But there is still no clear playbook for what comes next.

Congress scheduled an emergency session for Sunday evening to select a new president. Meanwhile, ex-President Martín Vizcarra—whose ouster sparked the upheaval—called on the country’s highest court to step in.

“It can’t be that the institution that got us into this political crisis, that has for five days paralyzed Peru, with deaths, is going to give us a solution, choosing the person who they best see fit,” Vizcarra said.

Peru has much at stake: The country is in the throes of one of the world’s most lethal coronavirus outbreaks and political analysts say the constitutional crisis has cast

the country’s democracy into jeopardy.

“I think this is the most serious democratic and human rights crisis we have seen since Fujimori,” said analyst Alonso Gurmendi Dunkelberg, referring to the turbulent rule of strongman Alberto Fujimori from 1990 to 2000.

Congress kicked Vizcarra out using a clause dating back to the 19th century that allows the powerful legislature to remove a president for “permanent moral incapacity.” Legislators accused Vizcarra of taking more than \$630,000 in bribes in exchange for two construction contracts while governor of a small province years ago.

Prosecutors are investigating the allegations but Vizcarra has not been charged. He has vehemently denied the accusations.

Merino, previously head of Congress, stepped in as interim president, but his six-day rule was marred by constant protests. The little-known politician and rice farmer promised to keep in place a scheduled vote for a new president in April. That did little to sway Peruvians who were loath to accept him.

Half of those in Congress are themselves under investigation for alleged crimes including money laundering and homicide. Polls show most wanted Vizcarra to carry out the rest of his presidential term, due to expire in July. As Peruvians took to the streets, police responded with batons, rubber bullets and tear gas.

A network of human rights groups reported that 112 people were hurt in Saturday’s

protests and the whereabouts of 41 others were unknown. Health authorities said the dead included Jack Pintado, 22, who was shot 11 times, including in the head, and Jordan Sotelo, 24, who was hit four times in the thorax near his heart.

“Two young people were absurdly, stupidly, unjustly sacrificed by the police,” Peruvian writer and Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa said in a recorded video shared on Twitter. “This repression – which is against all of Peru – needs to stop.”

The protests rocking Peru are unlike any seen in recent years, fueled largely by young people typically apathetic to the country’s notoriously erratic politics. Protesters are upset at Congress for staging what they consider an illegal power grab.

In remarks before Saturday’s upheaval, Merino denied the protests were against him, telling a local radio station that young people were demonstrating against unemployment and not being able to complete their studies because of the pandemic. For many, that showed just how out of touch Congress is.

“We want the voice of the people to be heard,” protester Fernando Ramirez said as he banged a spoon against a pot at a protest.

The protests sent a resounding message to political elites that Peruvians will serve as a check on Congress if they try to illegitimately grab power, said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard University political scientist who has extensively studied Peru.

Britain’s Johnson in self-isolation; has no virus symptoms

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is self-isolating after being told he came into contact with someone who tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said Sunday.

“He will carry on working from Downing Street, including on leading the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic,” a statement from his office said.

Johnson “is well and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19,” it added.

Johnson met with a small group of lawmakers for about a half-hour on Thursday, including one who subsequently developed coronavirus symp-

toms and tested positive.

He was notified by the National Health Service’s Test and Trace system Sunday and told he should self-isolate because of factors including the length of the meeting.

Officials said they will discuss with parliamentary authorities how Johnson can take part remotely in Parliament’s business. He plans to “continue speaking to the country during his self-isolation period,” they added.

The statement didn’t say how long Johnson planned to isolate, but U.K. health authorities’ guidance is that anyone contacted by Test and Trace should quarantine

for 14 days.

In April, Johnson was hospitalized in intensive care for three nights after contracting COVID-19. After he was discharged, he thanks health workers for saving his life and said for 48 hours during his hospital stay “things could have gone either way.”

His partner Carrie Symonds, who was pregnant at the time, also experienced symptoms and had to self-isolate.

The prime minister later said he wanted to build up his fitness, and in the summer he launched a national campaign to tackle obesity after acknowledging that he was “too fat” when he fell ill.

India reports 41,100 new coronavirus cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has reported 41,100 new cases of the coronavirus, raising the country’s overall tally since the pandemic began to 8.79 million.

The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported 447 deaths in the same period, driving total fatalities to 129,635.

India is second in the world in total reported cases behind the U.S., but daily infections have been on the decline since the middle of September. There has been, however, a resurgence of infections in New Delhi, which has seen a re-

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Mojave dunes await Jeep's newest Gladiator

(FCA US LLC)
2020 Jeep Gladiator Mojave



By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Hardcore off-road race machines that are built to tackle the Mojave and Baja dunes can cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million to build. But Jeep, with an eye on a growing market, now builds a desert racer for \$44K.

Not that it's in the same league as the 4x4 that took brothers Alan, Aaron and Rodrigo Ampudia to top honors in last year's grueling Baja 1000. But the 2020 Jeep Gladiator Mojave, the first to wear Jeep's new Desert Rated badge, is specifically engineered to withstand the intense heat, sand and dust of high-speed desert racing.

While some may call the Mojave just a modified Rubicon, the enhancements are for real. The frame and axles have been reinforced, the suspension system is built for hard landings, it has a 1-inch front lift for bigger wheel wells and 33-inch Falken Wildpeak tires that enable climbing dunes at high-speeds. The Mojave also can run in 4-Low up to 50 mph,

20 more than the Rubicon.

More important for most, the top-line Mojave 4x4 does all this plus offers great ride quality for daily commutes and weekenders, too. Mojave improves on steering and is quieter than the Rubicon thanks to less aggressive tire treads designed for sand rather than mud and rocks.

No one will mistake this midsize pickup coming down the road. It has a performance hood with faux scoop, giant Mojave decal, orange tow hooks and orange accents inside. One of the available colors is Punk'n Metallic (you guessed it: orange).

Mojave gets the same engine as other Gladiators, a 3.6-liter V-6 capable of producing 285 hp and 260 pound-feet of torque. Two transmissions are available: a 6-speed automatic or 8-speed automatic. Its 4WD transfer case, however, has a taller (2.72:1) ratio to accommodate the higher speeds in 4-Low.

Push the pedal to the metal and get to 60 mph in 8.3 seconds, but that's not what the Mojave is all about. Shift into

4-Hi and hit the Off-Road+ button on the center stack and you're ready for sandy trails and dunes. The system automatically adjusts throttle, transmission, shift points and traction control for optimum performance.

And it's plenty fun, even if you don't have a desert down the street. Mojave claws its way through loose sand and ruts like a hungry lion. It is well controlled sweeping down a trail but the suspension setup is designed to handle the hard thumps, too, like after cresting a sand dune. Jeep bolstered the ladder frame at the mounts and employed special Fox short-stroke hydraulic dampers (used in dune racers) to control rough landings after the 4,720-pound beast leaves the ground.

Despite being a desert runner, Mojave can handle lumpy dirt trails and rocks, too, with its greater-than-Rubicon 11.6-inch ground clearance and more forgiving approach and departure angles. Besides a front skid plate, shields protect the transfer case, fuel tank and transmission.

For those already ponder-

ing over Rubicon vs. Mojave, know that both cost about the same (base price around \$43K) and are roughly equal in payload at 1,200 pounds. The Rubicon, though, does top Mojave in towing capability at 7,000 pounds, versus 6,000. The combined mileage figure (on-road driving) is comparable, too, at around 19 mpg.

The Chevy Colorado ZR2 is another pickup to consider but can you take off the roof and doors, or fold down the windshield, like you can with the Mojave? Ah, that's a big no.

The Mojave interior is similar to the Rubicon but the seats offer greater bolstering to accommodate faster and bouncier travel. There's plenty of head and leg room in the front and rear rows and seats are comfortable enough for road trips, too. Rear seats offer storage versatility: They can be folded up for floor space or seat backs can fold down.

Durable cloth upholstery (leather is available) has orange contrast stitching and "Mojave" is embroidered at the top—in orange, of course. The same contrast stitching

continues across the dash and steering wheel.

On the instrument panel is an analog speedometer and tachometer which flank a programmable data screen in the center. A premium audio package (\$1,695) includes an 8.4-inch touchscreen with navigation and satellite radio as part of the intuitive Uconnect system, one of the best in the business.

The system includes an Off-Road Page with key powertrain data, pitch and roll degrees, and even the vehicle's altitude when it springs off a dune. The system shows images from front and rear cameras—and there's even a button to automatically clean the camera lenses.

Driver-assist technology features are available in a couple of options groups. For around \$1,800, you can get adaptive cruise control with collision warning and emergency braking, plus blind-spot and cross-path warnings and rear park assist.

Maybe some off-roaders have crawled over enough rocks. Gladiator's Mojave will add speed to the off-road ad-

ventures, even if there isn't a Baja in your future.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Jeep Gladiator Mojave 4x4

- Base Price: \$43,875
- As tested: \$61,605 (Includes Premium LED lighting group, \$1,045; Premium media/audio, \$1,695;
- Adaptive Cruise, \$795; Active Safety, \$995; 8-speed automatic with skid plate, \$2,000; Body-color three-piece hardtop, \$2,295; Heavy-duty rock slider with step assist, \$1,050)
- What's all the excitement about? All-new Gladiator Mojave earns Jeep's first Desert Rated badge, built to tackle the sand dunes
- Powertrain: 3.6-liter V-6 capable of 285 horsepower, mated to 8-speed automatic transmission
- How's the performance? It can claw its way through loose sand, crest a dune, then handle the hard landing; 0-60 mph on-road in 8.3 seconds
- Fuel economy: 17 mpg city, 22 highway, 19 combined

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors is recalling nearly 69,000 Chevrolet Bolt electric cars worldwide because the batteries have caught fire in five of them.

The company said Friday that it doesn't know yet what's causing the fires, but engineers are working to figure it out. Two people have suffered smoke inhalation due to the fires and a house was set ablaze.

U.S. safety regulators said the cars should be parked outdoors until the recall repairs have been made.

Until a permanent fix is developed, dealers will install

GM recalling nearly 69K Bolt electric cars due to fire risk

software that limits charging to 90% of the battery's capacity, Bolt Executive Chief Engineer Jesse Ortega said.

The recall covers Bolts from the 2017 through 2019 model years, including nearly 51,000 in the U.S.

It comes one month after the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that it was investigating the fires. The agency said in documents filed last month that the fires began under the rear seat while the cars were parked and unattended.

Ortega said engineers have

traced the fires to Bolts with battery cells made at an LG Chem factory in Ochang, South Korea, from May of 2016 to May of 2019. The fires have happened when the batteries were close to being fully charged, he said.

"We have no confirmed incidents from vehicles with cells not produced at this factory or a lower state of charge," Ortega said.

Some 2019 Bolts and all 2020 and 2021 versions have cells made at an LG Chem plant in Holland, Michigan, and are not included in the re-

call, he said.

GM hopes to find the cause and have a permanent repair as quickly as possible after the first of the year, Ortega said. Engineers are looking at several potential causes, he told reporters Friday on a conference call.

Until the software updates can be done, GM is asking owners to manually change adjustable settings to keep the batteries from being charged fully. Owners who aren't able to do this should park their Bolts outdoors and contact a dealer, Ortega said.

But NHTSA, the government safety agency, said in a statement that until the recall repairs are made, the safest place to park the Bolts is outside and away from homes.

"These vehicles can catch fire even if they are turned off, parked, and disconnected from a charging unit," NHTSA said. At least one of the five fires spread from a Bolt to a home, the agency said.

GM said it would start notifying dealers and customers of the interim recall immediately.

Ortega said the GM noticed the fires and began investigat-

ing in July, and it's cooperating with NHTSA.

The software change will cut about 10% from the Bolt's range on a single charge. GM said it understands owners could be upset about their cars not being fully functional, and it will address complaints on a case-by-case basis. Older Bolts can go about 238 miles (383 kilometers) per charge.

The National Transportation Safety Board, a federal agency that investigates transportation-related problems, is investigating electric-vehicle fires, and a report is expected soon.

Life & Style

As virus mutes Dubai nightlife, Filipino bands feel the pain

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Eric Roman struts onstage in his torn jeans and grasps the microphone.

It's midnight on a Friday and in normal times, he'd hear wild applause from this tightly packed hotel bar in one of

the old neighborhoods alongside the Dubai Creek. Sweaty throngs of fellow Filipinos, Arab businessmen and mall employees fresh from their shifts would hit the dance floor as he belted out Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" with

Ancient Greek god's bust found during Athens sewage work

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A bust of the ancient god Hermes, in good condition, was discovered in central Athens during sewage work, authorities said Sunday.

The Greek Culture Ministry said that the head, one of many that served as street markers in ancient Athens, was found Friday and it appears to be from around 300 B.C.—that is, either from the late fourth century B.C., or the

early third century. It depicts Hermes at "a mature age," the ministry said, in contrast to his usual depictions as youthful.

The head is in the style of famed Greek sculpture Alcamenes, who flourished in the second half of fifth century B.C., the ministry said.

After serving as a street marker, the head, at some point, had been built into the wall of a drainage duct, the ministry said.



In this undated photo, provided by the Greek Culture Ministry on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, a head of the ancient god Hermes is pictured after being found during sewage works in central Athens.



From left to right, April Joy, vocalist, Catherine Gallano, dancer and lead choreographer and Eric Roman, vocalist, cross the creek on a boat in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020

AP

close to what Filipinos make in a month, Zacarias said. Managers reserve "the good hotel suites" for traveling Indian dancers, while Filipinos are often packed eight to a room in unsanitary accommodations, he added.

"It's unfortunately the reality of the market. It's cheaper to hire a band from the Philippines," said Ricardo Trimillos, expert in Asian performance at the University of Hawaii.

When clubs closed in Dubai, dozens of Filipino musicians living in dormitories at the mercy of their employers were kicked out with nowhere to go.

According to the band association, 70% never received their promised gratuity to buy food and other basics. Some are selling their clothes to survive. Out-of-work dancers, like 33-year-old Catherine Gallano, have taken to livestreaming their routines—gyrating, backflipping and blowing kisses to followers who send them money.

The UAE's Filipino Bands Alliance said some 80% of Filipino artists have had their visas canceled by their employers, a consequence of the UAE's "kafala" labor system that links expatriates' residency to their jobs.

his nine-piece Filipino band.

But now the crowds, along with his bandmates, have vanished—in compliance with coronavirus restrictions that ban dancing and cap the number of musicians onstage. Roman took a 65% pay cut when his club reopened after the lockdown. Guitarists, bassists and drummers weren't so lucky.

"Dubai is dead," said Roman, 40. "Every day we're wondering where we're going to get our next meal, our next glass of water, how we're going to survive in this city."

Show bands from the Philippines have long animated Dubai's nightlife, satisfying an appetite for rock, R&B and pop that has grown with the emirate's expat population. Now, as the pandemic mutes the city's live-music scene and clobbers its economy, hun-

dreds of Filipino performers are struggling to survive.

Traveling Filipino house bands burst into prominence in the early 1900s during the U.S. occupation of the archipelago. Already well-versed in Western church music and military anthems from three centuries of Spanish imperialism, Filipinos deftly picked up on the latest American music trends, from jazz to rock 'n' roll, said Mary Lacanlale, an assistant professor of Asian-Pacific Studies at California State University Dominguez Hills.

By the century's end, karaoke was a national pastime. Filipino performers—with an uncanny ability to imitate Western music legends—became a mainstay in the nightclubs of emerging entrepôts throughout Asia and the Persian Gulf. Dubai drew legions

of Filipino cover bands to fuel its rapid transformation from a desert pearling port into regional party capital.

"Our music builds Dubai's reputation as a place that transcends political, racial and geographical divides," said Paul Cortes, the Philippine consul general in Dubai, who also happens to be a singer.

An uncertain fate now awaits the musicians, plucked from impoverished provinces to work in smoky lounges and hotel bars overseas.

"Agents promise you heaven and give you hell," said AJ Zacarias, a singer-keyboardist and president of the UAE's Filipino Bands Alliance, an advocacy group. "We're some of the world's most sought-after artists, and they treat us like garbage here."

British vocalists can earn

Holidays this year inspire thinking outside the gift box

DEAR ABBY: With the holidays fast approaching, I'm starting to think about shopping. Honestly, I'm tired of shopping for adults who don't need anything. Finding gifts for them becomes more daunting each year. I think gift cards and direct money are tacky Christmas presents.

Do you think it would be odd to ask my adult children and other family members to select a charity they would like me to donate to instead of buying them gifts that just take up more room? This year has been hard on many people financially, but most of my family members are lucky enough to still be working through everything that has happened. I think charities could use a boost.

NEW IDEA IN FLORIDA

DEAR NEW IDEA: I am sure they could. Your idea is terrific, and it reminded me of a letter I printed many years ago, which I have edited because of space limitations. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Like many families, we have wrestled with the "What do we get for people who have everything?" dilemma. Last year, our family finally hit upon a solution. We discussed it with our grandparents. They agreed it would be more charitable for us to give something to people who lack everyday necessities, so we adopted a battered children's shel-

ter. Those little ones are truly refugees. They need everything from toothbrushes and hairbrushes to baby formula and diapers—not to mention toys and games.

To our delight, our neighbors got involved in our project, too. For weeks, on Thursdays, neighbors would leave donations in a sack by their mailbox, and we would pick them up. Our goal was for every child in that shelter to wake up on Christmas morning to find packages of necessities and a few playthings.

The project created so much excitement among our neighbors that we collected enough for two shelters. There were pillows, socks, underwear, bath products, cold medicines, books, towels, baby clothes, etc. Each child also got a large gift basket, including a nonbreakable tree ornament to help him or her remember this holiday.

The cost was small when spread over so many families, but the rewards couldn't have been greater. We felt our project embodied the true spirit of Christmas. It sensitized our children to the needs of others all year long.

Because it was one of the best holidays we have ever had, we're repeating the drive again this year. When people join together, everyone CAN make a difference.

SANTA'S HELPERS IN PHOENIX

DEAR SANTA'S HELPERS: Your signature describes you

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

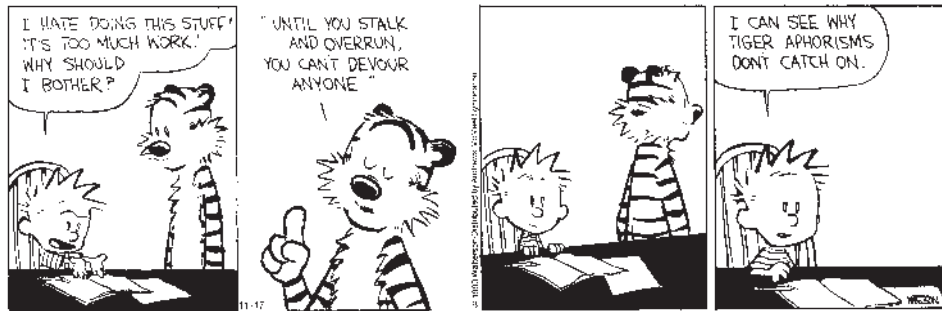
fittingly. With that in mind, I hope readers will be sensitive to the needs of charities in their local communities this year. Because monies that would ordinarily have been donated to local charities may have been diverted in other directions, many charities are having difficulty raising enough to meet their budgets. Remember, folks, charity begins at home—and by that I mean the communities in which you dwell.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mad-houses
5 In favor of
8 "Jabberwocky"
12 Bard's river
13 Fib
14 Take five
15 Rome and Paris, e.g.
17 Diamond Head locale
18 Furry foot
19 Saluted
21 Shocking weapon
24 Gas container
25 Sacred chests
26 Team leaders
30 Roman
31 Audition goals
32 Swab the decks
33 Nabbed

DOWN

1 Efron of "Neighbors"
2 Eggs
3 "Alley —"
4 "Blade" star
5 Imperfection
6 Black gold
7 Formed anew
8 Russian sleigh
9 Prosperity
10 Tennis legend
11 Poker variety
16 Sailor
20 Pismires
21 Body powder
22 Opera house solo
23 Omit
24 Yams
26 Fixes typos
27 Mosque leader
28 Zilch
29 Hot tubs
31 Wreck
34 Fortune-telling decks
35 Pancake makeup?
37 Petrol
38 Cry like a baby
39 Fed. workplace monitor
40 Sports vehicles, for short
41 Junk email
44 Tempe sch.
45 Have bills
46 "The Matrix" hero
47 Hosp. parts

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	O	D	O	G	M	A	I	D	S
A	B	E	A	L	O	E	S	N	I
R	I	N	K	Y	C	I	N	K	T
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S	I	E	N	N	A	N	E		
U	M	A	E	V	E	T	O	P	A
M	A	R	S	Y	F	W	P	I	L
O	C	T	F	T	L	A	V	N	O
I	I	E	R	E	L	O	O	K	T
T	O	D	Y	A	L	I	U		
A	M	I	F	R	E	E	D	R	I
D	A	N	O	N	R	Y	C	R	U
A	R	K	R	A	G	E	D	S	T

Yesterday's answer 11-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel McAdams, 42; David Ramsey, 49; Danny DeVito, 76; Martin Scorsese, 78.

Happy Birthday: Be secretive about the changes you make. Go about your business, and put your plans in place. Have faith in yourself and what you do, and feel optimistic that everything else will fall into place and lead to the success you desire. Planning, perfecting and perseverance will be your tickets to a better future. Poor health decisions will be your downfall. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 26, 33, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Digest what's happening. Choose reason, not reaction, to avoid jeopardizing your position, health or a meaningful relationship. Excess will lead to uncertainty and upset your ability to do what's best for you. Slow down; savor what you have. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change of heart will lead to a new direction. Look at the possibilities. Don't waste time; put your plans in motion. A chance to improve your position and status is reachable. Be receptive to suggestions from friends and family. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep moving. If you dawdle or let someone interfere with your plans, you will miss out on a chance to do something that will lead to self-improvement and motivation to be the best that you can be. Learn from your mistakes. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't disregard an offer or chance to bring about change. You may not relish learning or trying something new, but patience and tolerance

will lead to benefits by the end of the day. Listen to good advice, and proceed with confidence. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Concentrate on fitness, health and getting along with others. Give people the freedom to do as they please. The option to do what's important to you will become available. Romance is on the rise. Choose love over discord. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems will arise if someone uses emotional manipulation to get their way. Be open and honest regarding your plans, and if someone doesn't want to join in, don't apply pressure. It's important to do your own thing to the best of your ability. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't take sides; opt to do your own thing. The people who love you will stand behind you no matter what you decide. Take time to enforce better health decisions. Implement a fitness routine; focus on diet, downtime and personal happiness. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Abide by the rules and avoid trouble. Use common sense when dealing with options that might put your health, finances or reputation at risk. Make adjustments based on what is no longer working for you. Moderation will be your saving grace. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Making home improvements, helping others, and watching for personal gains

look promising. Consider what you want, and do your best to make it happen. An intimate relationship will require open, honest discussions about likes and dislikes to avoid drifting apart. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Impulsiveness is the enemy. Take your time, verify facts, talk to experts and focus on practicality. Keep life simple, moderate and peaceful, and you will ward off a confrontation over beliefs. Offer others the same freedom you want for yourself. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let a change of plans disrupt your world. Work with what others choose to do, and continue to do your own thing. Happiness is the perk of doing what you enjoy to the best of your ability. Don't look back. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're on a roll. Rev up your game plan and proceed with passion. You can accomplish whatever you set out to do as long as you give your all and you do your research. Preparation and fortitude go hand in hand. *****

Birthday Baby: You are flexible, inquiring and unique. You are intuitive and dynamic.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8		2	7				
9				5		4		
		2	3				8	
1		4			9			
6	9						3	5
			7			6		9
	6			5	2			
		9		3				6
			4	2		1		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	5	7	9	6	8	4	3
9	7	6	3	4	8	1	2	5
4	3	8	5	1	2	6	7	9
1	4	2	6	8	5	9	3	7
8	9	3	1	2	7	4	5	6
6	5	7	9	3	4	2	1	8
5	6	9	2	7	1	3	8	4
7	8	1	4	6	3	5	9	2
3	2	4	8	5	9	7	6	1

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Harden prefers to join Durant, Irving on Nets



HOUSTON — James Harden considers the Brooklyn Nets to be “rising to the top of his list” of trade destinations should the Houston Rockets decide to deal him this offseason, ESPN reported Sunday.

The Rockets have Harden under contract for two more seasons, but trade rumors have swirled ever since Houston was knocked out of the playoffs in the conference semifinals for the third time in four years. Harden was teammates with D.C.-area native Kevin Durant when they played together on the Oklahoma City Thunder, so the idea of a reunion isn’t far-fetched.

It would certainly shake up the Eastern Conference even more than it already is and make life more difficult for teams like the Wizards just hoping to sneak into a playoff spot with John Wall coming back from his torn Achilles tendon.

However, there are still plenty of logistics standing in the way of a Brooklyn-Houston move. The Rockets aren’t reportedly sold on the idea of dealing Harden and fellow guard Russell Westbrook has already requested a trade himself. Both Harden and Westbrook are rumored to be concerned with the organization’s future after head coach Mike D’Antoni and GM Daryl Morey were let go earlier this offseason.

Then there are the Nets, who have a young core around Irving and Durant that they may not want to give up for Harden. According to ESPN, no trade discussions have taken place and Brooklyn is still “considering the viability” of completing such a deal.

The NBA’s moratorium on trading is set to be lifted at noon ET on Monday.

AD officially declines \$28.7M option

This was expected, but now it is official

Anthony Davis has declined his \$28.7 million option with the Lakers.

He will re-sign with the Lakers, where he and LeBron James just led the franchise to its 17th title.

“I had a great time in L.A. this first year. This has been nothing but joy, nothing but amazement,” Davis said after the Lakers won the title. He refused at the time to comment on his next contract, but zero people around the league think he’s even considering leaving LeBron and the Lakers.

“Me and Bron’s relationship, we’re always close. You guys know that,” Davis said. “I got to L.A., he’s the first



In this Nov. 1, 2019 file photo, Houston Rockets’ James Harden (13) drives to the basket as Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving (11) defends during the first half of an NBA game in New York.

years Davis will have reached 10 years in the league and will be eligible for 35% of the salary cap (up from 30% now).

Schroder for Green plus draft pick

The Lakers knew they wouldn’t be able to sit back and navigate the season ahead with the same roster—a run-it-back mentality wouldn’t work while the rest of the league chases them.

So, they’re acting.

The Lakers are nearing an agreement to send guard Danny Green and the No. 28 overall pick in Wednesday’s NBA draft to Oklahoma City for guard Dennis Schroder, according to people with knowledge of the talks who are not authorized to speak publicly.

The trade would net the Lakers a versatile 6-foot-1, 27-year-old guard who was one of the NBA’s premiere sixth men a season ago.

Schroder’s and Green’s salaries are both around \$15 million, making the deal an easy match. Schroder will be a free agent after the 2020-21 NBA season.

The trade would need to be officially completed after the Lakers make that draft selection Wednesday.

Schroder averaged 18.9 points per game last season with the Thunder, second on the team. He made 38.5% of his three-point attempts to go with 4.0 assists and 3.6 rebounds. He played both guard spots in the Thunder’s backcourt alongside Chris Paul and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

Rival executives have long believed the Lakers could use another playmaker, and Schroder easily fits that bill. He’s also a capable lead offensive option in stretches when the Lakers don’t have James or Davis on the floor.

Losing the 6-foot-6 Green in the deal is significant—he’s a proven NBA winner with three championships. His size, defensive presence and ability to stretch defenses made him the Lakers’ primary target in free agency last season after Kawhi Leonard chose the Clippers. He’s also regarded as one of the NBA’s best teammates after winning titles in San Antonio and Toronto.

Green started every game for the Lakers last season during their championship run and his defensive acumen fit the identity LA and coach Frank Vogel tried to cultivate. (AP/NBC)

one to text me, congratulate me, invite me to his house. We kind of celebrated then. We’ve just grown over this past full kind of year, especially here in the bubble, because we were around each other every day.

So we were able to really connect off the floor [in a way] that you might not have a chance to do it when you’re in L.A.”

Davis—who was First Team All-NBA last season—is a lock max player and his

salary can jump to \$32.7 million next season, with the Lakers able to offer five years at \$189.9 million.

Expect Davis to sign a shorter deal, something his agent Rich Paul has pushed

for with other clients (including LeBron). Davis could sign a 1+1 deal (one year, plus an option year) to line his contract up on the same schedule as LeBron’s. More likely, he signs a 2+1 because in two

USMNT: Berhalter focused on chemistry

AUSTRIA—This year has presented a very unique and difficult set of challenges for everyone, and that includes the USMNT as Gregg Berhalter and Co., prepare for the start of 2022 World Cup qualifying in a few months’ time.

Speaking ahead of Monday’s friendly against fellow CONCACAF nation Panama, Berhalter described some of the challenges he and his staff have faced to assemble a group of players that they feel can return the USMNT to the World Cup, as well as the difficulty to do so with only this month’s training camp to include the vast majority of first-team figures between now the start of qualifying.

Most notably, Berhalter indicated that further building chemistry and on-field relationship is his main priority to complete this camp. In previous situations of back-to-back friendlies, the distribution of minutes would be more freely spread out among the players called into camp, whereas this time around his focus

is squarely on the USMNT players most likely to kick off qualifying at a still-to-be-determined time in 2021.

“When I first took over, we were switching guys left and right. Now, as we’re getting toward [qualifying], we’re starting to feel the urgency. This group won’t be in until March again, and then potentially Nations League [in June], and doubtfully for Gold Cup, so we’re basically going to have four more games together after this game. That’s a small number, so it is crucial that we get guys playing together and comfortable with each other,” he said.

“We’re going to try to build on what we had last game, so it will most likely look similar but with some slightly different personnel. One thing I’ve noticed, especially when you’re working with young players or a group that’s just forming, is you go through different stages of team development. With this group in particular, it is more of

individuals looking for their position within the team. We clearly want to move to more of a team-oriented standpoint as we get into qualifying,” Berhalter added.

The USMNT coach said it’s completely natural what’s happening now, a guy wants to come into camp, wants to make a good impression on the coaching staff, wants to play really well and focus more on himself.

“As the he gets more comfortable, now he’s focused more on his teammates. We certainly want to get to that stage by qualifying, because that’s going to be really important,” Berhalter said.

One of the small number of changes that Berhalter revealed is that Reggie Cannon will be inserted into the USMNT starting lineup at right back. Sergiño Dest, who started there against Wales, figures to shift to the other side of the field and play left back. While he’s certainly competent on the left, Berhal-

ter admits that Dest does face some opponent-specific challenges on his unnatural side.

“With Sergiño [on the left], sometimes you run into the issue against compact opponents that he has a tendency to come inside, which is completely natural to come onto his strong foot. If there’s no space, it may be difficult.

“On the right, he’s used to arriving more—something we’ve been working with him on, getting really deep into the penalty box that he can create dangerous plays. On the left, he’s ball-secure, he’s good combining—if you have a winger that stays wide, it could be a really good combination.”

As for the opponent, Panama, precious few players in the camp have participated in a World Cup qualifier against CONCACAF opposition, and that’s an experience they will have to take in stride when the games take on a new meaning next year. Monday will serve as but a small glimpse into a brand new world. (AP/NBC)



Murray lifts Cards over Bills for NFC West lead

ARIZONA (AP)—Kyler Murray completed a stunning 43-yard desperation pass to DeAndre Hopkins with 2 seconds left to lift Arizona to a 32-30 victory over Buffalo on Sunday.

The catch was as sensational as the throw.

The game appeared lost for the Cardinals until Murray rolled out to his left as the seconds ticked off the clock. He flung the ball toward the end zone, where Hopkins was waiting with three Buffalo defenders draped all over him. Somehow, the three-time All-Pro came down with the ball, and the Cardinals started a wild celebration in the end zone.

Josh Allen threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Stefon Diggs with 34 seconds left that looked like it would win it for the Bills (7-3). But Murray and the Cardinals (6-3, tied for the NFC West lead) ended the Bills' winning streak at three games with the improbable throw and catch.

Steelers 36, Bengals 10

Ben Roethlisberger threw for a season-high 333 yards and four touchdowns despite being forced to stay away from the team facility all week due to COVID-19 protocols.

Roethlisberger, one of four Steelers put on the COVID-19 list last Monday following contact tracing after tight end Vance McDonald tested positive for the novel coronavirus, completed 27 of 46 passes on a blustery afternoon at Heinz Field. Roethlisberger connected with Diontae Johnson and JuJu Smith-Schuster for touchdowns in the first half and found rookie Chase Claypool twice in the second half as Pittsburgh improved to 9-0.

Cincinnati rookie quarterback Joe Burrow struggled to generate any momentum behind a patchwork offensive line. Two weeks after a promising victory over Tennessee, the Bengals (2-6-1) were reminded how much work remains under second-year head coach Zac Taylor. Cincinnati went 0 for 13 on third down and Burrow spent much of the second half under duress. T.J. Watt collected two of Pittsburgh's four sacks.

Rams 23, Seahawks 16

Jared Goff passed for 302 yards, Darious Williams made two interceptions and the Rams took a share of the NFC West lead with Arizona and Seattle.

Malcolm Brown rushed for two touchdowns and Darrell Henderson had another score as the Rams (6-3) returned from their bye and held Seattle to three points after halftime



Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray (1) is chased by the defense of the Buffalo Bills during the second half of an NFL game, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, in Glendale, Ariz.

to win for the fifth time in the rivals' past six meetings.

Russell Wilson passed for 248 yards and rushed for 60 more for the Seahawks (6-3), who have lost three of four after a 5-0 start. Wilson threw two interceptions and lost a fumble, giving him 10 combined turnovers in Seattle's three losses.

Saints 27, 49ers 13

Drew Brees was pulled at halftime with a rib injury after passing for just 76 yards and one touchdown, but Alvin Kamara scored three times and New Orleans' defense largely stifled San Francisco (4-6).

Brees' injury appeared to occur when defensive tackle Kentavious Street was called for a personal foul on a sack in which he got a clean shot at the 41-year-old quarterback and landed directly on top of him. Officials ruled Street violated the NFL's "bodyweight rule," which bans defenders from landing on a defenseless passer with all or most of their weight.

Brees missed just two plays after the hit and returned for a third-down pitchback to Kamara that resulted in a 2-yard touchdown that tied it at 10.

Brees continued to play for the rest of the second quarter, going 5 for 6 on a two-minute drive that he completed with a 3-yard toss to Kamara that made it 17-10 just before halftime. But when the second half began, Jameis Winston

took the field while Brees stood with his helmet on and his hands on his hips in front of New Orleans' bench, where he watched the rest of a sixth straight victory for the Saints (7-2).

Dolphins 29, Chargers 21

Tua Tagovailoa had help from a less-heralded rookie while Justin Herbert struggled against a blitz-happy defense as the surprising Dolphins earned their fifth consecutive victory.

Salvon Ahmed, making his first career start, ran for 85 yards on 21 carries and scored a 1-yard touchdown on Miami's first play. The undrafted Ahmed filled in with two other running backs injured and sparked a ground game ranked fourth worst in the league.

Herbert threw a costly interception and was outplayed in the matchup of high draft picks by Tagovailoa, who passed for 169 yards with two scores and improved to 3-0 since taking over for Ryan Fitzpatrick. Herbert struggled against Miami's blitzing defense and threw for a season-low 187 yards.

The Dolphins (6-3) have their best nine-game record since 2001, and under second-year coach Brian Flores they've won more games than in all of 2019.

Raiders 37, Broncos 12

Josh Jacobs ran for 112 yards and two TDs and Jeff Heath

had two of Las Vegas' five takeaways.

Derek Carr didn't have to do much for the Raiders (6-3) offensively for a change as the running game and an opportunistic defense that came into the game last in the league with five takeaways carried the load.

Heath intercepted Drew Lock twice in the first half, Carl Nassib and Nick Kwiatkowski got picks in the fourth quarter and Nevin Lawson forced and recovered a fumble by DaeSean Hamilton to send the Broncos (3-6) to their third loss in four games.

The game changed late in the first half after Lock appeared to run in for a TD in the closing seconds that would have given the Broncos a 13-10 lead. Tight end Noah Fant was called for holding in the end zone on the play and Lock threw his second interception to Heath on the next play.

Buccaneers 46, Panthers 23

Tom Brady threw for 341 yards and was involved in four touchdowns, Ronald Jones had a franchise-record 98-yard touchdown run, and the Buccaneers bounced back from a dreadful defeat.

Coming off the most lopsided loss of his illustrious career—a 38-3 defeat to the Saints—Brady threw touchdown passes to Cameron Brate, Mike Evans and Rob Gronkowski, then ran for an-

other score in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Jones' run in the third quarter broke open a tight game. He raced up the middle behind left guard, shook off safety Tre Boston and was gone.

Packers 24, Jaguars 20

Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third score as the Packers overcame numerous mistakes to rally.

Rodgers put the Packers (7-2) ahead for good with 9:11 left by throwing a 6-yard TD pass to Davante Adams, who had left with an ankle injury earlier in the second half. Rodgers also had a 5-yard touchdown run and a 78-yard scoring strike to Marquez Valdes-Scantling, who caught four passes for a career-high 149 yards.

Keelan Cole scored on a franchise-record 91-yard punt return and a 12-yard reception for Jacksonville (1-8), which lost its eighth straight. Jacksonville's James Robinson rushed for 109 yards on 23 carries.

Lions 30, Washington 27

Matt Prater made a 59-yard field goal as time expired. Matthew Stafford threw two of his three touchdown passes in the first half and directed the winning drive with just 16 seconds left. Rookie defensive end Chase Young was called for roughing the

passer, giving Detroit the ball at midfield. Stafford threw a 9-yard pass to Marvin Jones to set up the kick.

The Lions (4-5) won at home for the first time in more than a year after building a 14-point lead at halftime and going ahead 24-3 midway through the third quarter.

Browns 10, Texans 7

Nick Chubb returned from a stint on injured reserve and scored a touchdown early in the fourth quarter—topping 100 yards rushing along with teammate Kareem Hunt.

Chubb reeled off a 59-yard run with 1:07 left and then smartly ran out of bounds at the 2-yard line instead of scoring so the Texans, who were out of timeouts, wouldn't get the ball back. Chubb finished with 126 yards on 19 carries in nasty weather. Hunt finished with 104 yards, including 37 yards—and three first downs—on Cleveland's final drive as the Browns (6-3) ran out the clock.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NFL STANDINGS				
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE				
AFC East	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	7	3	0	.700
Miami	6	3	0	.667
New England	4	5	0	.444
NY Jets	0	9	0	.000
AFC North				
Pittsburgh	9	0	0	1.000
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667
Cleveland	6	3	0	.667
Cincinnati	2	6	1	.278
AFC South				
Indianapolis	6	3	0	.667
Tennessee	6	3	0	.667
Houston	2	7	0	.222
Jacksonville	1	8	0	.111
AFC West				
Kansas City	8	1	0	.889
Las Vegas	6	3	0	.667
Denver	3	6	0	.333
LA Chargers	2	7	0	.222
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE				
NFC East				
Philadelphia	3	5	1	.389
NY Giants	3	7	0	.300
Washington	2	7	0	.222
Dallas	2	7	0	.222
NFC North				
Green Bay	7	2	0	.778
Chicago	5	4	0	.556
Detroit	4	5	0	.444
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375
NFC South				
New Orleans	7	2	0	.778
Tampa Bay	7	3	0	.700
Atlanta	3	6	0	.333
Carolina	3	7	0	.300
NFC West				
Arizona	6	3	0	.667
LA Rams	6	3	0	.667
Seattle	6	3	0	.667
San Francisco	4	6	0	.400
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Johnson wins Masters at record 20-under 268

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Nothing ever comes easily for Dustin Johnson in the majors, except for when he slipped his arms through that Masters green jacket Sunday.

Johnson overcame a jittery start that conjured memories of past majors he failed to finish off. He turned that into a command performance, making sure this one-of-a-kind Masters with no fans also had no drama.

Not even close.

Johnson tapped in for par on the 18th for a 4-under 68 to finish at 20-under 268, breaking by two shots the record set by Tiger Woods in 1997 and matched by Jordan Spieth in 2015.

His five-shot victory was the largest at the Masters since Woods won by 12 in 1997. All that was missing were the roars from a crowd for any of his pivotal putts early and his birdie putts on the back nine that put it away.

The Masters, postponed from April because of the



Dustin Johnson of the United States receives the green jacket from compatriot Tiger Woods after winning his first Masters title at a record 20-under 268 at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on Nov. 15, 2020.

his way to a 1-over 73.

The world No. 6 played alongside two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer in the final round. DeChambeau averaged 315 yards off the tee, Langer 250. DeChambeau drove the green at the par-4 third, but three-putted for par. Langer made a traditional birdie.

The 63-year-old bettered the 27-year-old by two strokes on Sunday and one stroke for the week.

It was an uneasy and inconsistent major for the reigning U.S. Open champion DeChambeau. He began the Masters by making a double bogey on his fourth hole, the par-5 13th, and opened in 2-under 70. He shot 74 in the second round, making the cut on the number, thanks to a triple-bogey 7, courtesy a lost ball at the par-4 third.

DeChambeau added another double bogey on Sunday—at the par-4 fifth—but also made eagle at the 13th, nearly holing his second shot.

The pre-tournament favorite finished the season's final major at 2 under par, outside the Top 30.

DeChambeau initially said on Saturday that he had been experiencing bouts of dizziness and stomach pains for a few days. He tested negative for COVID-19.

"I've got to fix whatever is going on up here. I have no idea. Just dizziness. It's only when I go from down to up, so I can't even like think and talk right now. But that's just what happens, I go down and up and my brain gets all disoriented," DeChambeau said after his final round.

SANTOS

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a major upset in Round 6 as the cellar dweller will take on pacesetter Samoa.

Samoa is undefeated after five rounds to gain the solo lead in the virtual tournament. Samoa kept its perfect record after dominating Kiribati in Round 5, 2,685.84 kg-1, 336.50 kg.

Slightly behind Samoa in second place are Australia (4-1) and New Zealand (4-1), while Kiribati (3-2) dropped to a tie for third with Nauru. Rounding out the standings are Pacific 1 (2-3), Papua New Guinea (2-3), Fiji (1-4), the Solomon Islands (1-4), and Pacific 2 (0-5).

New Zealand notched win No. 4 after topping the Solomon Islands in Round 5, while Australia downed PNG, and Nauru outclassed Pacific Team 1.

COVID-19 pandemic, was forced to do without patrons for the first time. Johnson still received a warm reception coming up the 18th from club members and their wives, his partner, Paulina Gretzky, and a few champions.

Johnson's four-shot lead was reduced to one after five holes, and then he quickly restored control. Cameron Smith and Sungjae Im each shot 69 and were the only ones who really had a chance.

No one had a better finish than defending champion Woods, but only after the five-time Masters champion posted the highest score of his career—three balls in Rae's Creek for a 10 on the par-3 12th hole. He finished with

five birdies over the last six holes to salvage a 76.

Johnson, the first No. 1 player in the world to win the Masters since Woods in 2002, was the main event. He won for the 25th time worldwide and his second major—he won the U.S. Open from four shots behind at Oakmont in 2016—comes with some big perks. He can return for the rest of his life and will host the Masters Club dinner next April for champions.

Worst score for Woods

What a difference a year makes. Last year, the 12th at Augusta National helped Woods win the Masters. This

year, it rendered him sadly mortal.

In 2019, Woods came into Amen Corner close to the lead.

His three closest competitors—Francesco Molinari, Brooks Koepka and Ian Poulter—all put their tee shots on 12 into Rae's Creek. Six holes later, Woods had his fifth green jacket.

Not this year. Woods was already long out of the tournament hunt when he arrived back at 12. The result: a nightmare.

Woods put two shots into the water, then flew the green and, when punching out of the sand, dunked a third ball into the water. The result: a

10, which took his score from three-under to four-over in just one hole.

That 10 is the worst score Woods has made on any hole, ever, in his Masters career. It's his first 10 on the PGA Tour in 23,789 holes on the PGA Tour. At least for Woods' sake it wasn't with anything at stake other than pride.

Woods shook off the terrible 12th to birdie five of his final six holes to finish the round at 4-over par. For the tournament, he shot 1-under.

63-year-old Langer beats DeChambeau

Bryson DeChambeau said he continued to feel dizzy on Sunday at Augusta National, "blading" and "chunking" shots on



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this Saturday also at the CPA Airport Field. Runners in the U14 age group must race in at least one qualifying event to earn a spot in the championship round set for Dec. 5.

Each school is allowed to field six runners per division plus one alternate both in the last qualifier and the final race. In the championship round, only the results of the Top 4 runners of each school will be counted to determine the division winners. Agape is the defending champion in both the girls and boys U14 age groups. Schools without at least four runners will not qualify for the team championship.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Agape Christian School and Saipan Community School runners keep each other's company early in the race.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Middle school runners head to the course in the second leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.



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prefers to
join Durant,
Irving on Nets**

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**Murray lifts
Cards over
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West lead**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

New winners in U14 races

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School's Kaithlyn Chavez and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Christian Lucero had triumphant debuts in the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series.

Chavez and Lucero joined the second leg of the competition held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field after missing the series opener and stole the thunder from the favored Agape Christian School runners. The Mt. Carmel School student emerged as the overall top finisher in the middle school race, winning the girls U14 division after completing the 2.1-mile run around the 14-minute mark (official time was not recorded). Lucero followed Chavez to the finish line a few seconds later to rule the boys U14 division.

The FMS student rounded the two-lap course way ahead of opening leg winner and Agape runner Peter Peng, who dropped to seventh place in last weekend's second qualifier. Peng's teammate Joseph Li came in at second in the boys U14 and was followed Saipan International School's Joseph Li and Gyu Hyeon Park, and another Agape bet, Danny Cheng. SIS' Casey Chambers, Mt. Carmel's June Yu, and Saipan Community School's Elija Ye completed the Top 10, while other finishers in the division were SIS' Kyle Kramer and Peter White, Agape's Boxin Chen, SCS' Dwight Crisostomo and David Ye, and Hopwood's Charles Guiang and John Quidato.

In the girls U14 race, Chavez prevailed against 12 runners, including first leg winner Barbara Wang of Agape. Chavez and Wang were neck-and-neck on their way to completing the first lap of the course before the Mt. Carmel student broke away heading out of the finish line loop. Chavez was still behind Lucero going into the last 400m and change of the race, but the former caught up with



the latter and eventually took the driver's seat just before she made a left turn toward the finish line loop.

Joining Chavez and Wang in the Top 5 of the girls middle school race were SIS' Savita Sikkil, Agape's Serena Chen, and the former's sister, Julie Anne Chavez. Rounding out the girls U14 finishers list were Agape's Esther and Jenny Xu and Ruth Zhang, SIS' Rebecca Eaton, Phoenix Gross, and Hoo Wang, and FMS' Teneasha Diaz and Nerita Sellem.

With the second leg of the middle school race in the books, only one qualifying event is left and it will be held

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Mt. Carmel School's Kaithlyn Chavez, left, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Christian Lucero head to the finish line in the second leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Santos debuts in Oceania meet; Barnhouse competes anew

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games medalist Raymond Santos competed in the 2020-2021 Oceania Weightlifting Federation League Tournament for the first time, while David Barn-

house made back-to-back appearances in the virtual event.

The two CNMI weightlifters were part of Pacific Team 2 that battled Fiji in the fifth round of the OWF competition held early this month.



Santos, who won three silver medals in the 2014 Micro Games in Pohnpei, recorded a total of 215 kg in his debut in the league after registering 90 kg in the snatch and 125 kg in the clean & jerk. Barnhouse, also a veteran of the

Micro Games and won gold medals in Pohnpei, posted the second-best score in Round 5 for Pacific Team 2 after logging 220 kg (95 kg in snatch and 125 in clean & jerk).

New Caledonia's Kyle Michel was the best performer for Pacific Team 2 with his 244 kg (112 kg in snatch and 132 in clean & jerk). Other members of the squad were Vanuatu's Frank Vira (135 kg) and Robinson Wotleen (185 kg), New Caledonia's Quentin Mattei (220 kg) and Guam's Vinci Levi Ebidag (183 kg). In the women's division, Pacific Team 2 was represented by Guam's Jacinta Sumagaysay (170 kg), Armie Almazan (160 kg), Brittney Pereda (170 kg), Nicola Lagatao (133 kg),

and Dami Dabbin (125 kg) and New Caledonia's Jessica Idjan (127 kg) and Prescillia Piotrowski (138 kg).

Pacific Team 2 combined for 1,427.30 kg (aggregate total minus squad's total bodyweight), which was better than its record in Round 4 (1,240.55) against Australia. However, victory is still elusive for Pacific Team 2, as it fell short against Fiji, which registered 1,448.65 kg to enter the win column in the 10-team field.

Two more rounds are left in the competition and the penultimate one will be held on Nov. 27 and 28. Pacific Team 2 will try again to snap its losing skid, but it will need

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2014 file photo, Raymond Santos competes in the Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.